



The Fly-By

A Quarterly Publication of the
Southwest Region
April 2021



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The Fly-By is published quarterly on the first month of each quarter. Deadline for submissions are:

1Q – 20 December

2Q – 20 March

3Q – 20 June

4Q – 20 September

Text may be submitted in the body of an e-mail (preferred) or as a document attached to an e-mail (a .txt or Word .doc/docx, or, if written in another word processor, saved as an .RTF).

Images in JPG format, un-retouched, un-cropped, and at least 1200 x 900 pixels, sent as attachments, never embedded in the document.

Credits: In all cases, please give full grade, name and unit of assignment of

- The article's author(s),
- Photographer, and
- Anyone in the article or appearing in photos.

– oOo –

Send submissions to the Editor at:

awoodgate735@gmail.com

Message size limit: 20 MB

2020 Southwest Region of the Year Awards

These outstanding volunteers are being recognized for their very significant contributions to our organization, communities and nation. Below are the recipients of the Civil Air Patrol, Southwest Region annual awards for 2020.

Maj. Gen. Jeanne M. Holm Aerospace Officer of the Year:

Maj. Ronald S. Marks, SWR-AZ-013

Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year:

Maj. Lee J. Guidry, SWR-TX-810

Frank G. Brewer Memorial Aerospace Awards Individual/Organization:

Georgetown Airport Manager Joseph A. Carney, Georgetown, Texas

Frank G. Brewer Memorial Aerospace Awards CAT II, CAP Senior Member:

Maj. Robert Kaye, SWR-AZ-021

Frank G. Brewer Memorial Aerospace Awards CAT II, CAP Cadet:

Cadet 1st Lt. Gabriella A. Pfang, SWR-TX-187

Cadet of the Year:

Cadet Col. Jackson B. Baker, SWR-TX-435

AFSA Outstanding Cadet NCO of the Year:

Cadet Master Sgt. Hunter C. Mamawal, SWR-NM-083

John V. "Jack" Sorenson Cadet Programs Officer of the Year:

Capt. Albert H. Sawyer, SWR-OK-002

Character Development Instructor of the Year:

Capt. Jeffrey J. Deery, SWR-TX-035

Squadron Chaplain of the Year:

Chaplain (Maj.) John M. Tober, SWR-NM-024

Senior Chaplain of the Year:

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Larry D. Killian, SWR-AR-001

Communicator of the Year:

Capt. Gregory R. Sturge, SWR-OK-151

Director of Finance of the Year:

Col. Mary D. Berkowitz, SWR-LA-001

Colonel Lester E. Hopper Historian of the Year:

1st Lt. Karen E. McKinney, SWR-AR-042

Norm Edwards Counterdrug Officer of the Year:

Lt. Col. Terry L. Howlett, SWR-TX-085

Professional Development Officer of the Year:

Lt. Col. David C. Ogden Sr., SWR-TX-001

Colonel Dion E. DeCamp Ground Team of the Year:

Nighthawk Composite Squadron, SWR-TX-413

Colonel Edwin W. Lewis, Jr. Incident Staff Member of the Year:

Maj. Michael P. Combellick, SWR-AZ-075

Colonel Robert V. "Bud" Payton PAO of the Year:

Lt. Col. David G. Finley, SWR-NM-084

Property Management Officer of the Year:

Lt. Col. M. D. Heck, SWR-OK-113

Colonel David Kantor Operations Staff Officer of the Year:

Lt. Col. Eugene J. Caisse, SWR-AZ-078

Lt. Col. T. Keith Riddle Aircrew Member of the Year:

Lt. Col. Aaron E. Oliver, SWR-OK-001

Safety Officer of the Year:

Lt. Col. David B. Mickle, SWR-AZ-078

Senior Member of the Year:

Maj. Tyler C. Leaf, SWR-NM-001

Squadron of Distinction:

42nd Composite Squadron, SWR-AR-042, Little Rock, Arkansas

Paul W. Turner Safety Award:

Arizona Wing

Please join me in congratulating them for their significant accomplishments during challenging times.

Col. Joe R. Smith, CAP
Southwest Region Commander

Safety is Priority One

Please read the latest issue of The Safety Beacon for timely, seasonal advice at <http://members.gocivilairpatrol.com/safety/>

Have you taken the ***Operational Risk Management*** Basic, Intermediate and Advanced online courses? Please visit: http://www.capmembers.com/safety/safety_education/

- Safety must be on every CAP member's mind, at all times.
- Before engaging in any CAP activity, a safety briefing must be conducted.
- Don't miss the Safety Specialty Track training posted at <http://www.capmembers.com/safety/safety-newsletters-2248/>
- ***Safety is our Number One Priority.***

How to Submit News Items for this Newsletter

▪ ***Do I Submit Photos?***

Articles with no photos may not be selected for publication. Do not embed images in a Word document. Instead, send in the original, un-retouched, full-size digital photos as attachments. Photo file size of under 500 KB may not be suitable for publication.

▪ ***If You Have Article Ideas or Suggestions***

If you have an article in mind but are not sure whether it would be acceptable, you need some guidance in writing it, or you would like to comment on the material published here, please feel free to contact the editor: awoodgate735@gmail.com. 📧

Right: In May 2018, then-Lt. Col. Jennifer Aupke was a guest speaker at the annual Arizona Wing conference banquet.

National Guard Colonel Discusses Her Career with Arizona Wing Cadets

*by Maj. Margot Myers, CAP,
Arizona Wing*

PHOENIX – Col. Jennifer Aupke, chief of protocol for the National Guard Bureau at the Pentagon, is no stranger to Arizona Wing. In May 2018, she attended the Arizona Wing Conference in Tucson as a guest speaker for the awards banquet.

In 2018, then-Lt. Col. Aupke had just completed her assignment as Director of Operations of the 347th Operational Support Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia. She did not know a lot about Civil Air Patrol, but she spent the day sitting in on breakout sessions, asking questions over lunch, and learning about CAP's programs and missions.

After the conference, she wrote about her experience, "They like to say they are 'the best-kept secret' of the USAF, but I would argue they should not be a secret at all but a resource we utilize for all sorts of innovations.

"These are the unsung heroes of our nation. Since 1941, when they were officially established by Congress, these men and women have been keeping our nation free and safe through passionate volunteerism. They alert 24/7 and respond to every national emergency. I am in awe of their dedication. I saw eager teenagers to retirees beam at the ideas they had been working on for years, looking for advocacy."



Right after the conference, Aupke reported to a new assignment at Maxwell Air Force Base, which gave her an opportunity to visit CAP national headquarters and learn more about the organization. After that assignment, she transitioned to a full-time, active-duty assignment with the National Guard in Jacksonville, Florida, and later to her current position at the Pentagon.

On March 1, 2021, Aupke renewed her acquaintance with Arizona Wing during a virtual meeting hosted by Deer Valley Composite Squadron in Phoenix. More than 80 cadets and senior members from across Arizona Wing attended the Zoom meeting during which Aupke talked about her career including being a member of the U.S. Air Force Academy class of 2001, flying as a combat search and rescue helicopter pilot, and her current assignment with the National Guard Bureau.

After her presentation, Aupke entertained questions from the cadets on the call. One asked how to get an edge when applying to the Air Force Academy. Aupke encouraged the cadet to be prepared to demonstrate participation in clubs and other extracurricular activities (including CAP) as well as at least one sports team. "In addition to physical fitness, good scores on standardized tests (ACT/SAT) and good grades are important to any service academy applicant," she said.

Another cadet asked Aupke what made her successful at the Academy. "You can't be an individual there; you're part of a team," she replied. "They break you down and show you that you have to rely on your classmates. You learn about others, their talents, and what they bring to the table."

Referring to her seven combat deployments, another cadet asked if she was ever so afraid that it made it hard to focus on her job. "If you think there is somebody who doesn't get scared before a deployment, you're wrong," said Aupke. "I had to rely on my training to get through those deployments. You learn to use your fear to make yourself better."

At the time of the call, Aupke was in California recertifying her qualification as an instructor pilot in the HH-60G/M (Pave Hawk) helicopter. She has more than 1,800 flying hours in the HH60G/M and various other airframes. "You might think it's odd to have a helicopter pilot as the Chief of Protocol for the National Guard Bureau," Aupke said. "I don't have specific skills for planning ceremonies and events, which is what my office does. I see my role as helping my very capable team members to do their jobs."

Aupke says she is an example of someone who understands that leadership is not about knowing everything all the time, or barking out orders, or sticking to a comfort zone. "My success comes from remaining curious, humble, caring, and surrounding myself with great airmen and soldiers, like those in the Civil Air Patrol," she said. 🇺🇸

Below: Col. Jennifer Aupke participates in a Zoom call with Arizona Wing cadets on March 1, 2021.

Who am I

- Col Jenn Aupke, USAF
 - USAF 2001
 - 18 yrs active duty
 - 1.5 yrs Florida ANG
- Combat Search and Rescue Instructor Pilot
 - Over 1800 hrs
 - 7 Deployments
 - 67 saves
- Secretary of Women Military Aviators
- Board member STEM ELEVATE
- Co- Founder of The Milieux Project, Inc
- Snowboarder :)

Click to add notes

Slide 5 of 21 English (United States)

Right: (L-R) New Mexico Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Jesus Corral Aranda and Staff Sgt. Robert Hill unload vaccine supply boxes from a CAP aircraft. COVID-19 vaccines and accompanying supplies are transported aboard CAP aircraft in the custody of National Guard personnel.
(Photo: 1st Lt. Joseph Bellicinii, CAP)



New Mexico Wing's COVID-19 Mission Extended to June 30, 2021

*by Lt. Col. Dave Finley, CAP,
Mission Public Information
Officer*

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – With the beginning of the new year, New Mexico Wing's COVID-19 relief work began operating under a new mission number, closing out the mission that was first assigned in April 2020, and extended numerous times until the end of the year. The new mission was originally authorized through March 31 but has been extended to June 30, 2021.

Since the first flights began carrying COVID-19 vaccines on December 15, 2020, that has been the sole purpose of this mission, with no more flights carrying coronavirus test samples to the laboratories since then. Acting as the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force, the wing continues to deliver vaccine from the New Mexico Department of Health to several cities around the state.

The mission, funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), assists the New Mexico National Guard in transporting vaccines for the Department of Health. CAP aircrews are joined on these flights by National Guard members, who deliver the shipments to the agencies that will perform the inoculations. So far in 2021, wing aircrews have flown nearly 100 sorties, totaling more than 140 flight hours for the mission.

In 2020, New Mexico Wing aircrews flew more than 440 flight hours, and ground teams drove more than 5,200 miles to deliver more than 28,000 COVID-19 test samples from far-flung cities to Albuquerque laboratories for processing.

In a letter to Mission Liaison Officer Lt. Col. Jim Steele, Bianca Ortiz Wertheim, cabinet secretary-designate for the State's Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management wrote, "On behalf of DHSEM and the State of New Mexico, I would like to extend my gratitude to you and your entire New Mexico Civil Air Patrol team for all the support you have provided us to respond to COVID-19 through our testing, and most recently vaccination missions."

With the close of the 2020 mission, Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters authorized 135 Wing members who had participated in the mission – directly supporting the presidentially declared emergency – to wear CAP's Disaster Relief Ribbon with silver "V" device.

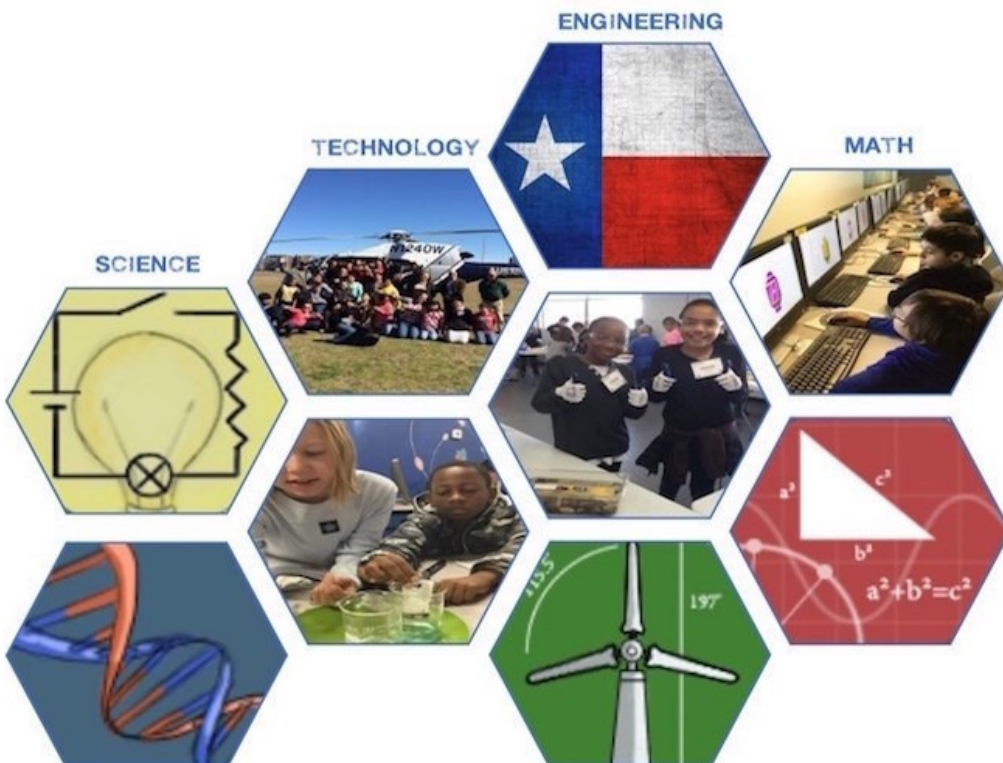
"The large number of participants in this mission – senior members and cadets alike – and the fact that they came from squadrons across the state, strongly demonstrates their dedication to volunteer service. I am very proud that so many of our members have contributed to helping our fellow New Mexicans through this lengthy crisis," Peters said.

Acting as a Total Force Partner and official civilian auxiliary of the Air Force, Civil Air Patrol is aligned with First Air Force to rapidly respond to non-military threats domestically when tasked to a Defense Support of Civil Authorities capacity to save lives, relieve suffering, prevent property damage and provide humanitarian assistance. 🇺🇸

by Maj. Steven Alvarez, CAP, Texas Wing

Left: STARBASE is sponsored by the Texas National Guard with the mission of introducing at-risk children to the benefits of STEM
(Image: STARBASE website)

This means that we now have more powerful laptops for our cadets to use and can therefore become hopefully significantly more



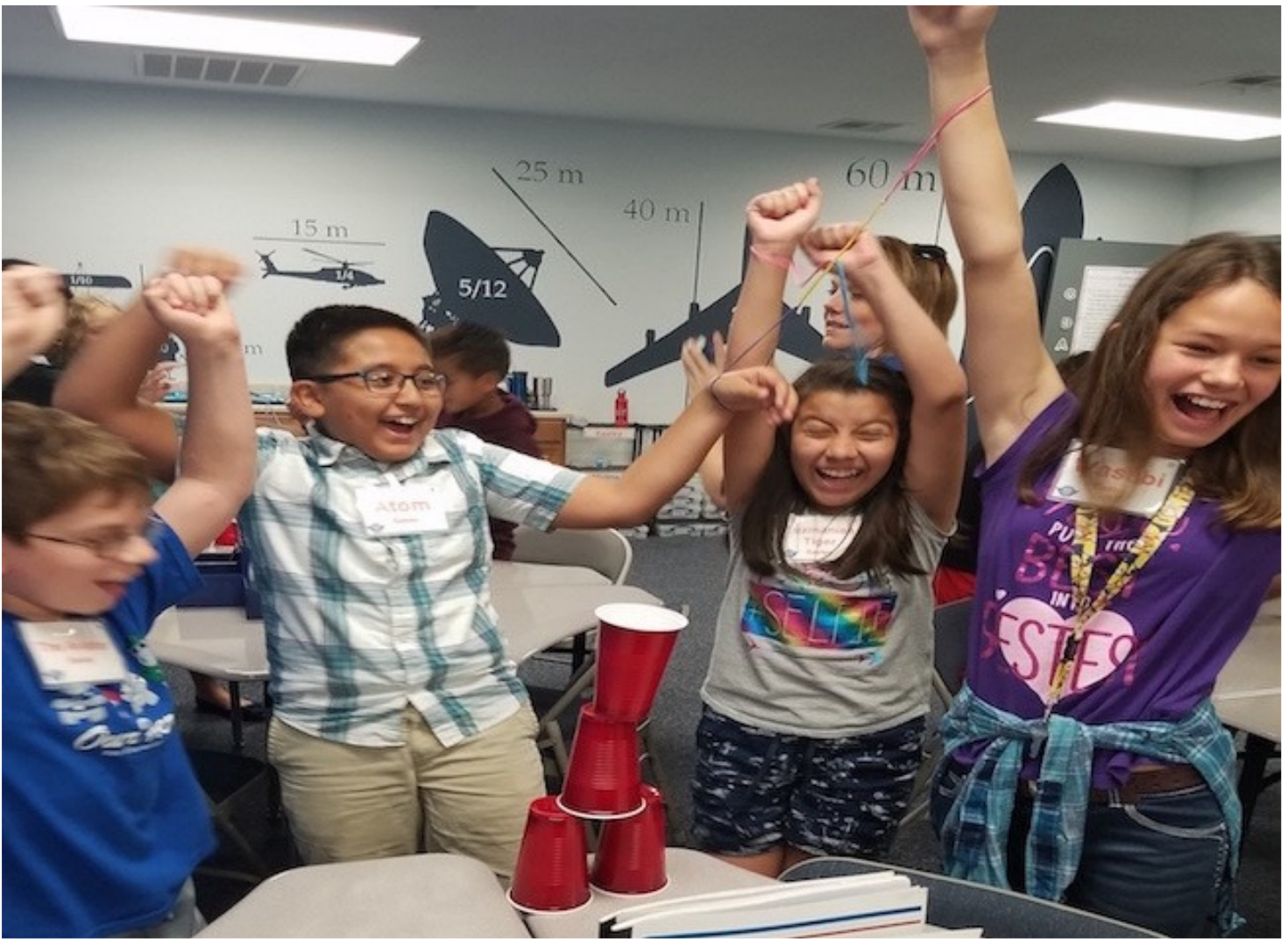
competitive in future competitions.” In addition, senior members in the squadron office can work more efficiently without worrying about intermittent Wi-Fi signals. “There is no cost to CAP or the squadron,” Eibe said. “This is purely done through the gracious goodness of Patrick Yonnone and his team. In return, STARBASE Austin will report the Pegasus squadron’s CyberPatriot program participation as a STARBASE 2.0 program, so the cadets involved will be aggregated into STARBASE’s reporting of program participation.

Yonnone hopes the pilot program can be used to expand the interconnectedness of both STARBASE and Civil Air Patrol with local STEM networks. “Red tape has prevented us from a more formal partnership and being able to share resources for years,” Yonnone said. “I would give Dennis all the credit for not giving up on finding a good solution until we determined that the memorandum of understanding/cooperative agreement would allow us to partner effectively. This timing also coincided with the replacement of our computer lab, so things aligned nicely,” he added.

During the laptop handover in October 2020, Yonnone asked Eibe whether the squadron could use an electronic board with a projector and speakers since STARBASE had just received two newer models. Eibe accepted at once, and Yonnone also passed down some Wi-Fi hardware and some two dozen folding chairs from STARBASE. “I am personally very passionate about STEM education and believe that when programs cooperate, students benefit far more than if the programs are not connected,” Yonnone said.

“It is personally satisfying to help Pegasus, because I am personally a big fan of CAP, but also students gain, more use is made of our resources, the STARBASE program gets to claim a larger network and more students impacted, and we get to grow/develop a relationship with a neighboring STEM program – so there is a ton of benefit for anyone touched by our agreement with Pegasus. 🇺🇸

Below: Children enrolled in the STARBASE program learn at play. (Photo: STARBASE website)





Top: Lt. Col. Mike McCoy, a member of the 388th Composite Squadron, Glendale, Arizona, donates blood on March 19, 2021, taking Operation Pulse Lift across the 2,500-unit goal line. Behind McCoy, are (L-R) Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Caleb Miller, Cadet Technical Sgt. Kaitlyn Tucker, Cadet Technical Sgt. Mackenzie Diddy, and Red Cross blood drive supervisor Yvette Torres. (Photo: Maj. Klara Olcott, CAP)

Arizona Wing's Operation Pulse Lift's New Height: 2,500 Units of Blood Donated

by Maj. Margot Myers, CAP, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – On March 19, 2021, Arizona Wing's Operation Pulse Lift achieved another milestone in its COVID-19 emergency blood donation mission with the collection of the 2,500th unit of blood. The honors went to donor Lt. Col. Mike McCoy, operations officer for the 388th Composite Squadron in Glendale, Arizona. The blood drive at the 388th Composite Squadron was part of the 58th blood donor center operation in 11 months during the COVID-19 pandemic. The squadron also was the location of the first COVID-19 blood donor center on April 15, 2020.

McCoy was preceded (number 2,499) by Eric Christensen, father of Cadet Airman Aiden Christensen, from Gloucester, Massachusetts, who donated a unit of blood at the Brookwood School in Manchester, Massachusetts. CAP members and their families in 50 wings and at national headquarters have been giving blood and reporting their donations to Operation Pulse Lift (pulselift@cap.gov) to be included in the total.

"Congratulations to the 'Top Dogs' of the 388th, *Leading with Honor* at Glendale, and to all from coast to coast – including members in Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico Wings – who have donated blood and supported the blood donation operation over the past year," said Incident Commander Lt. Col. Bob Ditch.

"This was another banner week for Operation Pulse Lift," Ditch said. "Not only did the organization beat its annual goal of 2,500 units of blood on March 19 – 28 days earlier than planned – but 419 units were reported as collected during the week from 29 Wings and national headquarters."

The total of 140 units collected in Arizona came from four blood donor center events, including Falcon Composite Squadron in Mesa, Arizona with a record-setting one-day collection of 51 units of blood, and blood drives hosted by the Yuma (42), 388th (30), and Eloy (17) composite squadrons.



Left: A mission safety officer is assigned to each blood donation event. MSO Maj. Ron Marks (right) briefs (L-R) Maj. Thomas Tostenson, Capt. John Giddings, and Capt. John Bryant before a blood donation center event at Falcon Composite Squadron on March 18, 2021. (Photo: unidentified blood donor)

Below: A photojournalist for ABC15 in Phoenix interviews Lt. Col. Bob Ditch, incident commander for Arizona Wing's COVID-19 emergency blood donation center mission, known as Operation Pulse Lift.

The blood drive in Yuma was the first for the squadron. It was held at a Rural Metro Fire Station with cadets and senior members from the squadron supporting the event by checking in donors

and escorting them to the donation room and the post-donation waiting area.

The surge in donations benefited from the support of Southwest Region Commander Col. Joe Smith, who emailed members encouraging them to donate, either at a CAP-sponsored event, through their local Red Cross, or other blood donation organizations. "One year ago, Civil Air Patrol [CAP] launched an unprecedented effort to help sustain the nation's blood reserves, which were facing insurmountable constraints presented by the COVID-19 pandemic," Smith wrote. "I am asking all our Wings' members, and their family members, to roll up their sleeves and find a blood donor center to contribute to ... a sign of our 'One CAP' promise of steadfastness to the nation and the saving of many lives."

Oklahoma Wing joined in Operation Pulse Lift, scheduling its first blood donation center event for March 25, 2021. Texas Wing is looking into assisting with Air Force blood drives at Air Force bases in Abilene and San Antonio.

CAP national headquarters is working with the Air Force Blood Program office regarding possible support to the Armed Services Blood Program. This may include donations, periodic blood donation center staffing augmentation, and transportation of blood to processing labs.

"We will be doing a proof of concept in April, transporting blood from Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Texas, to the blood bank at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio for processing," Ditch said. "This will demonstrate CAP's ability to support blood transport from Air Force blood collection sites to Air Force blood banks."

Operation Pulse Lift is Arizona Wing's largest and longest-running COVID-19 disaster relief mission in its history. 🇺🇸





Right: The PowerPoint intro slide announcing New Mexico Wing's re-entry into Phase I. (Images: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)

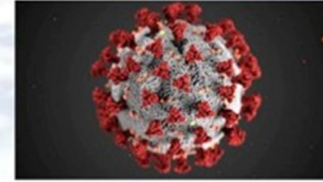
Below: A county-by-county map of risk categories throughout New Mexico, as of February 24, 2021.

New Mexico Wing Reauthorized for Phase I Remobilization

by Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, New Mexico Wing

New Mexico Wing COVID-19 Remobilization Plan

Phase 1- March 1, 2021



ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On March 1, 2021, New Mexico Wing was officially reauthorized to enter Phase I of Civil Air Patrol's Remobilization Plan. In a PowerPoint presentation, New Mexico Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. Dean M Klassy, Sr., leader of the Wing's Remobilization Task Force, said, "One of the most important things is the safety of our New Mexico Wing senior and cadet members and their families." He added, "We need to make sure that our members arrive safely and leave the meeting safely," also noting, "I know that some of you have been dealing with COVID-19 or have had friends or family members who have."

The Wing was originally approved to move into Phase I in September 2020 but reverted to Phase 0 – Essential Missions Only – in October, following a sudden spike in COVID-19 cases. Wing Staff and squadrons continued to meet virtually, and missions were limited to the delivery of COVID-19 test samples, and then later vaccines, after they were approved for rollout.

Now that the Wing has been approved for Phase I, self-identified low-risk units may meet in groups of 10 or fewer members, provided they wear cloth face coverings and practice social distancing, hygiene and hand-washing requirements. Leaders must continue to monitor members' health status through no-touch temperature checks and asking members if they feel well. Klassy also emphasized that the metrics for Phase I must be constantly reassessed, as they could change rapidly.

Squadrons are reopening on a county-by-county basis, based on the following categories:

Red (very high risk), yellow (high risk), green (medium risk) and turquoise (low risk). As of February 24, 2021, most counties in New Mexico were in the yellow category, with nine counties in either the green or turquoise categories, and only four counties flagged in red.

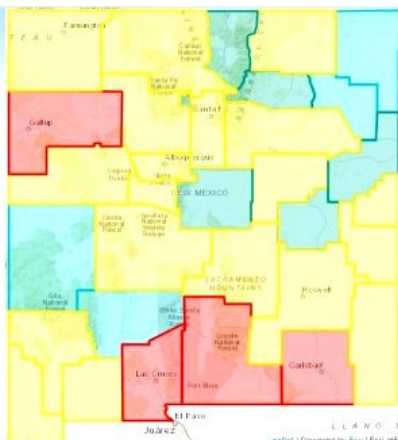
Squadrons in the red risk category are limited to in-person meetings of five or fewer members, while units in all other categories may meet with 10 or fewer members. As of March 23, 2021, Klassy noted that he was working on the Wing getting approval to enter Phase II, but that approval rests on maintaining social distancing and hygiene requirements.

What is next? According to Klassy, "We need the state to continue to improve, then we can go into Phase II and beyond, and if things don't improve, we may need to go backwards again."

NEXT UPDATE IS March 10, 2021

This is the Feb 24, 2021 data for the State of New Mexico. This will stay this way for 2 weeks.

Lets hope that more counties move into Yellow, Green or Turquoise.



Klassy reiterated the importance of following the remobilization guidelines. "Please don't jump the gun and have a meeting before you are approved, and keep within the numbers and safety precautions," he concluded.

An Interview with Achieving Texas Wing Twin Cadets

by 2nd Lt Jeff Beaulieu, CAP, Texas Wing

GEORGETOWN, Texas – The General Carl A. Spaatz Award is the Civil Air Patrol's highest cadet honor, and earning it is a rare occurrence. In the history of Civil Air Patrol, less than 2,500 cadets have reached this level. That is less than 0.5% of all cadets in Civil Air Patrol history. What is even rarer is for a set of twins to earn it on the same day, and thus meriting the grade of cadet colonel. That is what two cadets from Apollo Composite Squadron in Georgetown, Texas achieved in February 2021. Here, Cadet Colonels Hannah and Zoe Denison, both 17, share their thoughts on why they joined CAP, what they got out of the program, and their plans for the future.

Q: What made you join Civil Air Patrol in the first place?

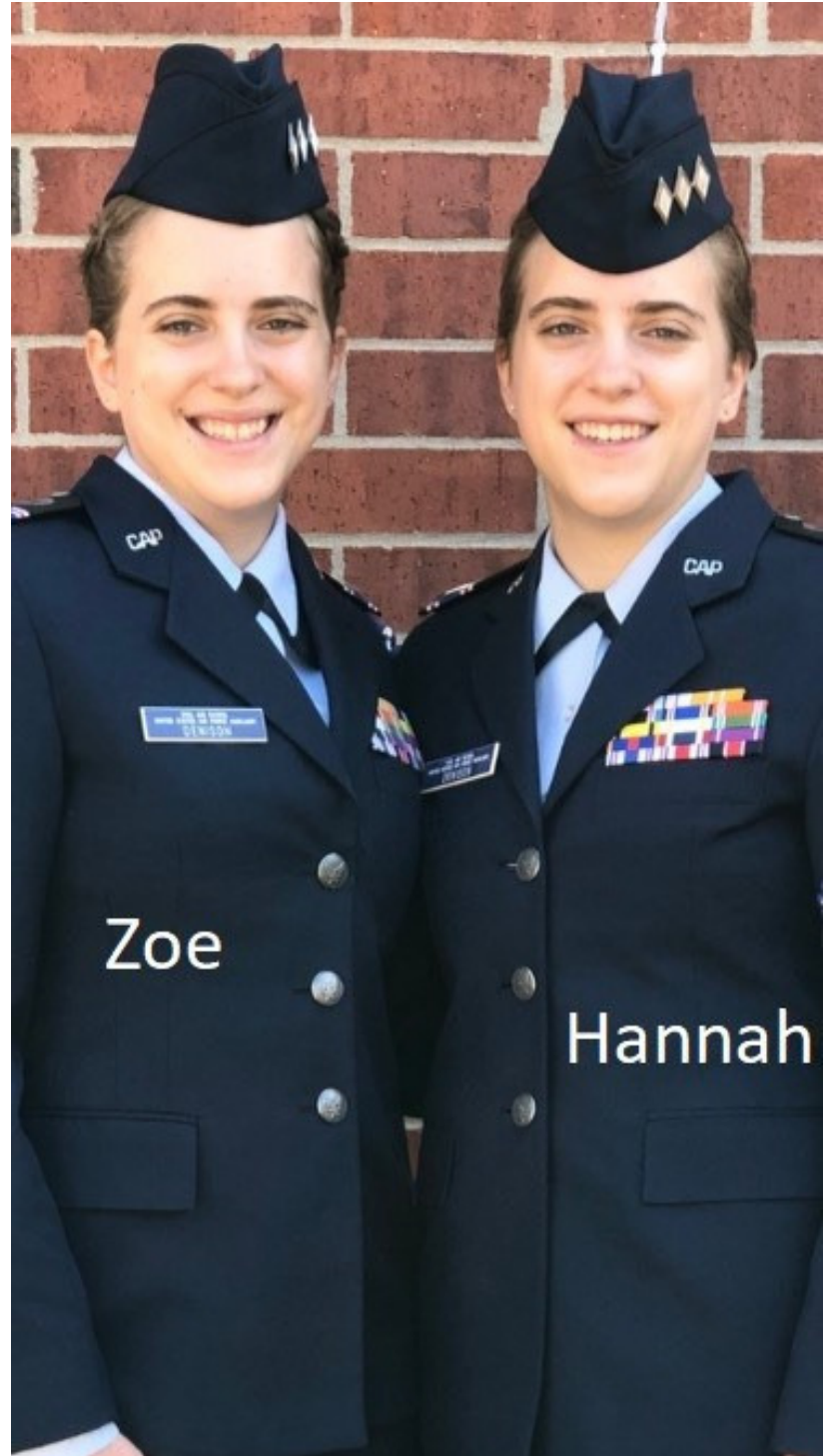
Zoe: Growing up, I had always wanted to be in the military, so when my twin, Hannah, decided she wanted to try out Civil Air Patrol, I knew I had to tag along (although she tells a slightly different story). On our first visit to the squadron, when I got to see the uniforms and the marching and the airport, I knew I wanted to stay.

Hannah: I had never heard of CAP before, but my friend joined the Tennessee Wing and encouraged me to look into it. He said it was a good way to prepare for the Air Force Academy, so I decided to give it a try. I forced Zoe to go with me to the first meeting because I was scared to be alone. We both enjoyed it, so we decided to stick around for the three trial weeks. And now we're still here, almost four years later!

Q: What has Civil Air Patrol done for you as an individual?

Hannah: I could probably write a whole book about all the ways CAP has helped me personally, but one of the biggest positives has been the confidence it has given me. I'm naturally introverted, so I used to be incredibly shy and scared to talk with people. CAP helped push me out of my comfort-zone and break off my shyness. I'm definitely still an introvert, but I'm perfectly capable (and comfortable, even) interacting with anyone about anything!

Zoe: Civil Air Patrol has truly changed my life. I joined as a shy, unsure 14-year-old who had never even written an email or led a group. I was unsure of myself in so many ways and, looking back, hardly knew who I was. During my four years in the program, I have been stretched and challenged in so many ways, and it has truly transformed me. I no longer have a fear of public speaking (or writing an email), nor do I shrink back from leadership opportunities. I have learned how to interact with both



adults and peers in a professional setting. Most of all, however, I have been given some of the best friendships of my life!

Q: What are your interests outside of CAP?

Zoe: I have a serious obsession with plants. My room is filled to the brim with all sorts of houseplants, including a giant palm named Brinkely (shout out to *You've Got Mail*). I also love studying history and doing any type of physical activity or sport.

Hannah: Well, I enjoy watching movies, playing my guitar, and sleeping! But on a more serious note, I genuinely enjoy school and I spend a lot of my time studying outside of CAP.

Q: What do you plan to do in the future after high school graduation?

Hannah: I hope to attend the Air Force Academy and study Astro or Aero Engineering. Beyond that, I don't really have a long-term plan!

Zoe: My goal all through high school was to attend the US Air Force Academy and to commission as an officer. Over the past year, however, my goals have been shifting. I haven't made any final plans yet, but at the moment I am looking at attending Utah State University and pursuing a career in missions or through the State Department.

Q: What are your future plans in Civil Air Patrol?

Zoe: I plan to continue my membership through college and transfer to senior membership at age 21. I am so excited to give back to the program!

Hannah: I plan to transition into the senior member sector when I turn 21. My success in CAP has largely been due to the amazing senior members around me, so I hope to give back to the next generation of cadets in the same way.

Q: What would you like to tell anyone who is thinking of joining CAP?

Hannah: At least give it a try! CAP is certainly not for everyone, but you never know until you give it an honest chance. It might be one of the best decisions you'll ever make!

Zoe: I would say without a doubt, "Do it!" You will have hard, uncomfortable, and maybe downright miserable moments, but they pale in comparison to the lessons you will learn, the friendships you will make, and the opportunities you will be given. Civil Air Patrol's culture of excellence and integrity creates an incredible place to grow as a person and a leader. Create goals for yourself. Work hard. Stay focused. You will fly so much higher than you ever could have imagined!

Q: What advice would you give to a cadet who aspires to achieving the Spaatz Award?

Zoe: Don't let anyone talk you out of your goal – including yourself. At the beginning, it may be overwhelming because of how far away you are from cadet colonel. Stay focused on the grade right in front of you and take it step by step. As you move into chief and officer ranks, you may encounter advice to slow down or to take it easy. Honestly evaluate your situation. If you need to take time to grow as a leader, or you have extra time before you move out of the program, slow down and thoroughly learn each position. Sometimes that is the best – and hardest – thing to do. If not, however, keep pushing and don't make excuses for mediocrity! When you hit the upper ranks, it can be hard to finish. You may feel like it is pointless to put in the extra work to study for the test or you may get overwhelmed with life. You have made it this far, so don't give up! Make your last push to get the award. You will be so thankful you did! Through it all, keep in mind that the Spaatz award is 100% achievable and *you can do it!*

Hannah: It's important to understand that the Spaatz Award is very achievable. If you set your mind to it, you will succeed. On a more practical note, I would encourage you to do some work on the front end. Actually, take the time to read the Leadership and Aerospace books as you go through the achievements, and study extra hard for the other milestone tests. Both of those things will pay off exponentially while preparing for the Spaatz test. 🍀

(Photo: 2nd Lt Jeff Beaulieu, CAP)



Top: (L-R) Cadet Airman Michael LeBlanc, Cadet Lt. Col. Evan Norman, Cadet Airman Mayson Wilson, Cadet Airman Addison Bute, Cadet 2nd Lt. Garron Seaux, Cadet Senior Airman Brady Hartman, and Cadet Airman Riley Zoble. (Photos: S.M. Ashley LeBlanc, CAP, Louisiana Wing.)

Louisiana Wing Squadron Conducts a Day of Training and Camaraderie

by Capt. Kale LeBlanc, CAP, Louisiana Wing

LAFAYETTE, La. – On February 20, 2021, cadets of the Lafayette Composite Squadron came together at the Lafayette Regional Airport's Signature Flight Services for a day of training and camaraderie. The training, conducted by Capt. Kale LeBlanc and Cadet Lt. Col. Evan Norman, focused on current and future Cadet Staff members and how they could lead and motivate their fellow cadets to improve the squadron as a whole.

The course, attended by 7 cadets, included discussions on Servant Leadership, Conducting an Opening Formation, and Squadron Goals. Favorable weather allowed for the training to move to the Drill Pad to practice the skills learned in the classroom.

When it comes to staff, "It isn't for everyone," said Cadet Norman, the squadron's cadet commander. "You have to have the heart to plan and be a servant to get the best result for your cadets. The current and future group of staff members are ready to step up to the plate and hit a home run!" he added.

Right: (L-R) Cadet Airman Michael LeBlac, Cadet Mayson Wilson, and Cadet Senior Airman Brady Harman.

Below: (L-R) Cadet Lt. Col. Evan Norman, Capt. Kale LeBlanc, Cadet 2nd Lt. Garron Seaux, Cadet Senior Airman Brady Hartman, Cadet Airman Mayson Wilson, Cadet Airman Michael LeBlanc, Cadet Airman Addison Bute, and Cadet Airman Riley Zoble.

The cadets' hard work and enthusiasm were rewarded as the day culminated with a trip to Surge Entertainment, a local entertainment center that features bowling, VR simulators, and arcade-style games. Even though participation was restricted because of COVID-19 precautions, every unit member participated with enthusiasm. Cadets were able to eat, play

and bond as they put aside the structure of the cadet program and focused on building the lasting friendships often associated with Civil Air Patrol.

At the close of the event Cadet Norman said, "Overall, the staff training was executed well! The information taught in this training doesn't just apply to their CAP careers, but also their professional lives."

The Lafayette Composite squadron plans to conduct more training as the year goes by, and hopefully the combined work and friendly training model will keep unit cadets sharpening their skills and advancing rapidly in the CAP Cadet Program. 🇺🇸





Top: On February 24, 2021 (L-R), Capt. John Huls, project manager for Arizona Wing's mission to support communications at Phoenix Municipal Stadium, works in the communications trailer with Capt. John Giddings, Falcon Composite Squadron. (Photo: Nenette Alfonte, Marketing Program Specialist, Public Information Office, DEMA)

Arizona Wing Expands COVID-19 Mission with Vital Communications Support at Mass Vaccination Site

by Capt. Lisa Nolan, CAP, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – In February 2021, the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA) requested support from the Arizona Wing to help manage the communications at one of its mass COVID-19 vaccination sites. "Since that time, CAP members have worked more than 650 volunteer-hours delivering essential communication resources at the Phoenix Municipal Stadium COVID-19 vaccination site – known as POD2," said Project Manager CAP Capt. John Huls, of Arizona Wing's Scottsdale Composite Squadron. "These CAP volunteers provide essential onsite communications. More than 3 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Arizona. And we are not done yet."

The on-site communications project includes:

- Recruiting, scheduling, and training the CAP volunteers to staff the site.
- Overseeing all radio communications and cellular LTE Internet, including monitoring three radio channels designated for a calling channel, a "talk" channel, and an incident command channel.
- Managing the tracking, dispersal, collection, and charging of all two-way handheld radios.
- Managing the distribution, collection, and charging of iPads/electronic tablets.

Operating out of a self-contained mobile incident command trailer provided by the Tempe Fire Department, the CAP communications support team coordinates the combined use of handheld radios, iPads, and LTE cellular connectivity. These services allow the site incident command staff, station leads, medical staff, pharmacy, and other supporting personnel to communicate, supporting the smooth delivery of about 3,000 vaccinations per day. The radios provide coordination, and the team uses iPads to verify and check-in vaccine recipients and conduct

essential data collection. Sitewide effective communication is a technical challenge and a critical component of the site's operating success.

"Vaccinating thousands of people against a pandemic-level virus is not an easy task," said Huls. "It requires extensive coordination and effective communications between many people in multiple locations, filling various roles, for vaccine doses to reach the arms of waiting Arizonans and visitors." CAP volunteers support this effort seven days a week, filling two 6.5-hour shifts per day.

This communications assignment expands an Air Force-assigned Arizona Wing disaster relief mission to provide COVID-19 support that began in March 2020. Civil Air Patrol has been actively working with Arizona DEMA using CAP Cessna airplanes to transport COVID-19 test kits from remote parts of the state to Phoenix and Flagstaff labs for faster processing. Arizona Wing pilots also transport DEMA and National Guard staff members to conduct site evaluations for future locations to keep expanding vaccine distribution throughout the state.

In considering the expanding role that CAP is playing in the fight against COVID-19, Huls said, "Civil Air Patrol is leveraging its emergency services knowledge to assist Arizona DEMA with the management of required communications at this state-operated COVID-19 vaccination site. By facilitating proper communications, Civil Air Patrol's professional volunteers are giving back to the citizens of Arizona, and the nation, helping us all move out of this pandemic."

CAP 1st Lt. Sheldon Ross has a dual role in this mission. He works as the operations logistics chief/emergency services manager at Arizona DEMA; he also is the safety and emergency services officer for Scottsdale Squadron. Ross expressed his appreciation for the expertise brought to the efforts at Phoenix Municipal Stadium.

"Intensive vaccine distribution and administering underway at our first distribution site at State Farm Stadium had severely depleted trained Incident Command System staff," Ross said. "So when we were looking for high-level ICS communications capability at our second POD location at Phoenix Municipal Stadium, we were in a 'need all hands on deck' situation requiring additional emergency services personnel with ICS backgrounds. Civil Air Patrol filled that need, bringing professionalism and expertise. This effort gives us the confidence and assurance that communications, so critical to the site operating smoothly, will be maintained at a high level."

When DEMA set up the Phoenix Municipal Stadium vaccination site, it replicated another state POD, keeping the exact logistics and operational flow. The original site at State Farm Stadium was recently toured virtually by President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris. Biden called the operation a model to be used around the country.

Each site has a three-stage progression from check-in to vaccination administration to postvaccination observation in an ample open space allowing vaccine recipients to drive through the process. CAP coordinators will soon be working with Arizona DEMA to make the necessary adaptations to move vaccine distribution operations to indoor facilities as Arizona's hot summer weather approaches. Adding CAP communications expertise to these ongoing operations enhances and reinforces Arizona Wing's emergency services response and serves Arizona citizens. 🇺🇸

Right: (L-R) The mother/son duo of Cadet 2nd Lt. Adam Marquez and 1st Lt. RoseAnne Marquez works a shift in the communications trailer at the Phoenix Municipal Stadium mass vaccination site. (Photo: 1st Lt. Tony Voyles, CAP)



Right: Cadets and senior members from Santa Fe Composite Squadron attend their first in-person meeting, more than a year after the pandemic began. (Photo: Maj. C. John Graham, CAP)

New Mexico Wing Squadron Resumes In-Person Meetings Following Risk Assessment

by Maj. C. John Graham, CAP, New Mexico Wing



SANTA FE, N.M. – On March 16, 2020, Santa Fe Composite Squadron held its first in-person meeting, following a risk assessment performed by the squadron, and after New Mexico Wing had been authorized to move into Phase I of CAP's COVID-19 Remobilization Plan.

Anticipating resumption of in-person activities, the Santa Fe Squadron started planning in September 2020 for holding meetings, cadet physical training (PT), and drill again, the first time the Wing was authorized to move into Phase I. As a first step, Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Angie Slingluff and Safety Officer Maj. C. John Graham visited the New Mexico National Guard facility at the Santa Fe Regional Airport, where the squadron had been holding its meetings. During the visit, they met with Lt. Col. Ali DiPour of the New Mexico National Guard and discussed the best spaces to use for meetings and PT or drill, as well as where to screen arriving members, keeping with COVID prevention protocols.

Based on the visit and having reviewed a very thorough risk assessment (RA) from Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron, Maj. Graham drafted an RA using CAPF 160, *Deliberate Risk Assessment*.

The draft RA was a primary topic of discussion during the squadron's online monthly meeting on October 6, 2020. Using the screen-sharing capability of MS Teams, members were able to review hazards and risk controls line by line. A very productive discussion ensued, and member suggestions resulted in significant improvements to controls. For example, Capt. Allan Wood, a retired physician, recommended that the screening station be set up outdoors at a side entrance to the building rather than behind the main double doors, so that any contaminated air would not be trapped between the two sets of doors. The side entrance also provided direct entry to a large hangar room where PT and drill were usually conducted, rather than using hallways where six-foot separation was more difficult. Other suggestions included the best drop-off/pickup location for cadet parents in vehicles, opening doors on either side of the hangar room to provide air flow, turning on two large overhead fans, and protocols if any cadets felt unwell. The risk assessment was updated accordingly.

The cadet PT meeting was held on October 13, 2020. Capt. Wood and Maj. Graham arrived early to set up the screening station and disinfect chairs, exercise mats, door handles, and other often-touched surfaces. A safety briefing was conducted based on the approved risk controls. The meeting went well and was conducted safely.

The Wing reverted to Phase 0 not long after the PT meeting, due to a spike in COVID cases, but the lessons learned – most importantly proving the old adage of "two heads are better than one" – were applied when the squadron was able to resume Phase 1 activities again in March 2021. Further discussions on risk controls led to successful cadet meetings, notably an aerospace education evening at the SAF hangar where, in preparation for orientation flights, cadets were able to learn about aerodynamic features of different aircraft.

Undoubtedly, risk assessment is most effective when more than one person contributes. Lt. Col Slingluff said, "I want to express my deep gratitude for the efforts and expertise of both Capt. Wood and Maj. Graham in keeping cadet and squadron safety foremost in their minds. We are all better for having them on our team." 🇺🇸

Right: Master Sgt. Faun Daves took time off his work day to make his donation. (Photo: 1st Lt. Tamara Shannon, CAP)

Operation Pulse Lift Takes Off in Oklahoma

by Capt. Brandon Lunsford,
CAP, Oklahoma Wing

TULSA, Okla. – A little over a year ago, the country faced the beginnings of a health crisis. When the country began shutdowns, it affected every fabric of American society. Restaurants closed, retail outlets closed, and schools sent students home to begin virtual studies. As schools retooled their internal frameworks and class designs moved education to homes, an unintended consequence arose in Arizona. The American Red Cross, an organization of volunteers and staff working to deliver vital services – from providing relief and support to those in crisis, to helping the American people be prepared to respond in

emergencies – lost its primary blood donation sites. Seeking a solution, the Red Cross contacted Civil Air Patrol officials in Arizona, and CAP members knew exactly what to do.

Civil Air Patrol is an organization that is not widely known, but has a very wide impact. Its mission is simple, “Supporting America’s communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, youth development and promotion of air, space and cyber power.”

“Supporting the Red Cross is an ongoing mission for Civil Air Patrol – in this role serving as the Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force,” said Lt. Col. Bob Ditch of Arizona Wing. “Over the past three years, CAP members, along with their families and friends, have hosted the donation of more than 500 units of blood through CAP’s Operation Pulse Lift.”

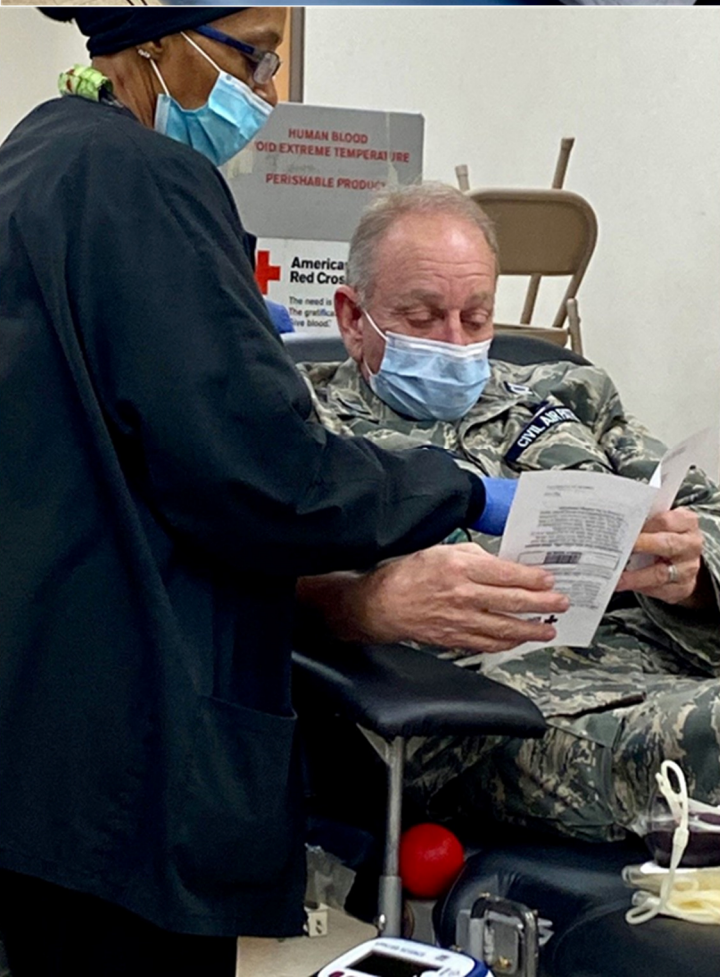
With schools going to virtual class designs and closing their doors, Arizona CAP squadrons, in partnership with the Red Cross, expanded their existing donor program by providing locations to meet the demand of blood donations.





Left: First Lt. Tamara Shannon shows her donation at the Glenpool collection site. (Photo: Capt. Robert Platner, CAP)

Below: A Red Cross employee explains donation procedures to Capt. Robert Platner. (Photo: 1st Lt. Tamara Shannon, CAP)



“That is how this began,” said Capt. Robert Platner, Oklahoma Wing’s health services officer. “We saw the need being met in Arizona and reached out to Lt. Col. Ditch to see what we could do to assist. He connected us with the Red Cross and here we are. What we are doing today is literally affecting and changing lives.”

Platner joined CAP at the age of 13, but when his family relocated, he was unable to continue in the program. Then 55 years later he visited a local squadron and rejoined.

This first donation day for Oklahoma in support of Operation Pulse Lift saw 14 total donors.

“With all that’s going on in the world today, the need for blood never goes away,” said Master Sgt. Faun Daves. “I’ve always felt a sense of pride after giving, and I wanted to do my part.”

Daves joined CAP in 2018 with his wife and then 13- year-old son. “It took me a while to become actively involved,” Daves recalled. “Mostly, I would watch what the cadets were doing. Knowing what I know now, and with the experiences I’ve shared with my family in CAP, I really wish I had not waited.”

The initial donation event for Oklahoma brought with it several lessons that were well learned. Maj. Bill Herold, Oklahoma Wing’s deputy chief of staff for operations, took note.

“This mission was invaluable,” Herold said. “We’ll add what we’ve learned to our planning for the next event. We cannot wait to see this effort grow and fill the need. Seeing a group of volunteers come together during an event where our assistance was requested is truly amazing.”

“Looking back, I wish I had rejoined years ago. I missed being a part of this, helping people,” added Platner.

The next donation event in support of Operation Pulse Lift is scheduled for the end of May 2021, with dates pending. 🇺🇸



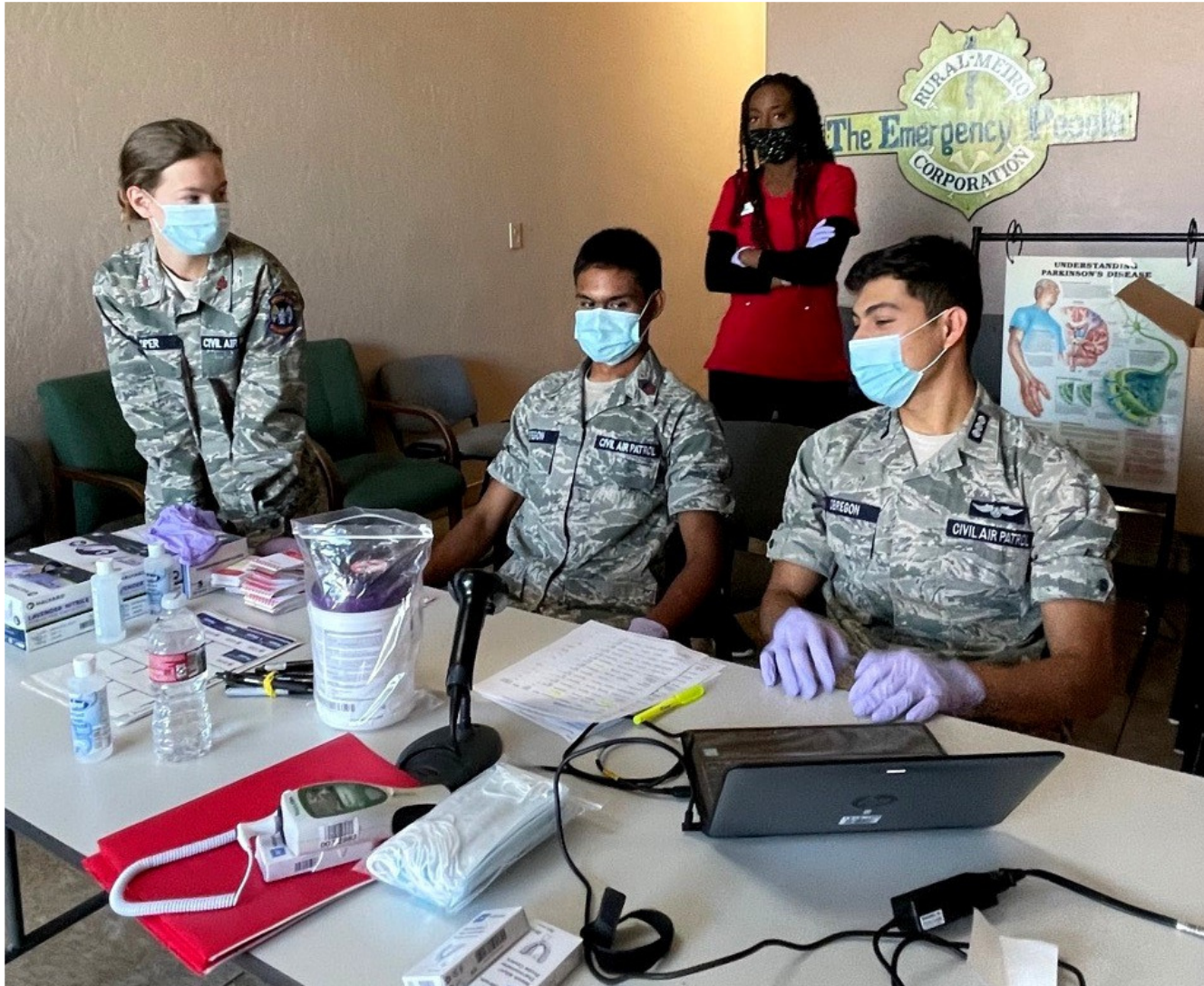
Top: Cadet 1st Lt. Joey Burkart donated blood during the Yuma Composite Squadron's emergency blood donation center at the Rural Metro fire station on March 17, 2021. (Photos: Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Elainea Franklin)

Arizona Wing Unit Hosts First Blood Donation Center Event

by Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Elainea Franklin, CAP, Arizona Wing

YUMA, Ariz. – On March 17, 2021, Yuma Composite Squadron 508 supported the American Red Cross in a blood donation center event as part of Arizona Wing's Operation Pulse Lift. The event was held at a Rural Metro fire station in Yuma.

The morning started off with cadets learning how to sign in donors electronically. Cadets also helped by using a hands-free body temperature scanner and handing out name tags and "Power Red" stickers to donors who were donating two units of blood. Cadets were quick to fall into the routine of checking in donors. They also were given the task of handing out T-shirts, helping provide donors with post-donation juice and snacks, and walking donors to their vehicles if needed.



Above: (L-R) Cadet Airman Caroline Cooper, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Justin Obregon, and Cadet Capt. Tristan Obregon work at the donor check-in desk with support from Red Cross staff member Editra Walker (in the background).

The Yuma Squadron is one of the smaller units in the Wing. Both senior members and cadets volunteered to support the event with nearly half of its 32 members getting involved with the blood drive.

Incident Commander Lt. Col. Bob Ditch was quick to praise the squadron for the success of its first blood donation center event. "Today, the Yuma Composite Squadron supported its first Operation Pulse Lift COVID-19 blood donor center operation and tied the all-time CAP national record with 42 units of blood collected," Ditch wrote in a congratulatory email. "That puts the Yuma squadron on a par with Cochise Composite Squadron in Sierra Vista, Arizona, which collected 42 units at its first donation event on July 7, 2020. A total of 15 squadron senior members and cadets supported the operation in Yuma, and the American Red Cross is extremely happy, wanting to know when they can make it happen again."

Among the 42 donors in Yuma were two cadets and one senior member from the squadron: – Cadet 1st Lt. Joey Burkart, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Elainea Franklin and Master Sgt. Christopher Cooper.

"Overall, the experience was a good one," said Squadron Commander 1st Lt. Albert Ustaszewski. "The American Red Cross staff was great to work with. They worked quickly and efficiently and helped show cadets how to make the whole process smoother. This opportunity was also a great way for cadets to learn a little about the people within their community and the value and importance of community service." 🇺🇸



Top: Squadron Leaders and the latest graduates of the Cadet Great Start Program (L-R) Deputy Commander for Cadets Maj. Brian Kilian, Cadets Aiden Marrs, Clara Moore, Logan Perrien, Kaley Powers, and Grant Day, Squadron Commander Capt. Robert DuRall, Cadet Commander Cadet Holz (Not pictured, Cadets Woody and Maverick Dokimion Garrett). (Photos: Maj. Brian Killan, CAP)

Texas Wing's Azle Composite Squadron Makes a Comeback Thanks to the Cadet Great Start Program

by Maj. Brian Kilian, CAP, Texas Wing.

AZLE, Texas (March 16, 2021) – From a dying unit to a thriving squadron of over 30 members, Azle Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, finds success in implementing the Cadet Great Start Program to build its membership not only in cadet numbers, but also in senior members.

In 2018, Azle Composite Squadron was struggling with declining cadet and senior member numbers and was at risk of having their charter revoked and the unit dissolved. At the time, they were meeting in a location that did not have an environment conducive to the unit's needs. They had only three active cadets and four active senior members, and survival seemed unlikely. Although the squadron was grateful for the use of the donated space, it was obvious that they needed to find a location better suited to Civil Air Patrol activities.

Thanks to a unit member's religious membership, his church agreed to host the CAP unit at their site in Azle, across from the local public high school. The pastor agreed to allow them to meet in the church, and in April 2019, the move was made. The new location has several rooms available to the unit as well as a lighted, paved parking lot for drill, and grassy and wooded areas to perform emergency services exercises.

Right: After congratulating Cadet Logan Perrien, Maj. Brian Kilian congratulates Cadet Kaley Powers.

As part of attempting to turn the unit around it was resolved to implement a Cadet Great Start Program, which would bring in a class of new cadets that progress through the CAP program at relatively the same pace. While all cadets are responsible for taking their own tests and progressing in their development, functioning together provides encouragement and synergy and leaves no one behind.

Squadron Commander Capt. Robert DuRall decided to give the Cadet Great Start program a try, and during the remainder of 2019 and the beginning of 2020, before meeting restrictions forced the squadron to hold only virtual meetings, the squadron completed two Cadet Great Start programs and recruited 15 new cadets. At the end of 2020, when meeting restrictions were lifted, a third class was held and seven cadets completed the Cadet Great Start program, earning the rank of Cadet Airman.



This initiative gave these teens and their parents a comprehensive introduction to life as a Civil Air Patrol cadet. After graduating, the cadets said that they felt warmly welcomed by everyone and appreciated the patience and leadership shown by the higher-ranking cadets who taught many of the classes. They also liked the senior members who explained topics in greater detail when necessary, keeping the classes running smoothly and on schedule.

In the five-week long course, prospective cadets are introduced to various elements of the CAP Cadet Program – Leadership, Aerospace Education, Physical Fitness, Character Development, and Emergency Services. The students liked the teamwork and accomplishment.

Several of the activities required them to work together – sometimes one on one, but also in groups. Also, the students observe teamwork in action between the higher-ranking cadets and senior members who worked together to run the program.

From learning to wear the uniforms properly to interacting with other ranking cadets and senior members, these new cadets emerge with self-confidence, goals, and the knowledge and skills necessary for completing their first Achievement, the John Curry Award, that signifies that a cadet has displayed a positive optimistic attitude and is enthusiastic and team oriented. The award comes with a voucher that may be used to purchase a cadet's needed uniform items.

The first two classes were primarily led by Capt. DuRall and Maj. Kilian. However, by the time the third class was held, CAP Cadet NCOs and Officers, working under supervision, applied their leadership skills through organizing and providing entertaining and challenging classes and activities. Besides giving new cadets an opportunity to learn more about Civil Air Patrol, existing cadets had a chance to teach, mentor, and be positive role models. Both the new cadets and their parents felt the Great Start program gave them an excellent overall view into the CAP program, which most of them did not have before.


While participating in the Cadet Great Start and continuing into their time as cadets, all cadets set goals for themselves that will not only help them advance in the CAP program but develop skills and discipline that will translate into succeeding in school, life, and careers beyond Civil Air Patrol. Cadet Day said, "I want to become more physically fit and to climb the ranks" and Cadet Powers announced, "My goal is to become a Cadet Colonel", which is the highest cadet rank, the Spaatz Award.

Parents also get a preview of the Civil Air Patrol program during the five weeks they spend attending with their prospective cadet. Most of them were astounded at the opportunities available to their children and amazed at the positive changes they began to see almost immediately in them. Tracy Day, now a senior member, said, "Not only did I enjoy seeing my son flourish in the program, but also appreciated the positivity and encouragement that he received and the leadership he has in turn shown to others, even to his siblings."

While prior to attending a Cadet Great Start class many parents had little idea of what Civil Air Patrol was, afterwards they agreed that teamwork and leadership found within the program is a huge asset and a positive draw. As a result, several parents joined as senior members and are actively supporting the unit as volunteers to fulfill not only the day-to-day missions of running a squadron to support the cadet program, but as members who will have opportunities to serve as aircrew or ground team members during search and rescue or damage assessment missions.

By completing the Cadet Great Start program and its membership requirements along with achieving their first rank, these new cadets will get a bird's eye view of the city in the next several weeks by taking their first orientation ride in a CAP aircraft with an experienced CAP pilot.

Cadet Great Start has been a Civil Air Patrol program for more than a decade and is one of the many ways in which a unit can attract new membership. Capt. DuRall is the second commander of the unit that was chartered in 2012 as a program at the local high school under the direction of a commander who was one of the high school teachers. According to DuRall, when the high school discontinued the program a few years after its inception, the unit began to struggle with recruiting, bringing it to a point in 2018 where it was in jeopardy. DuRall credits the Cadet Great Start program for drastically changing the unit's dynamics. He estimates that recruiting has increased at least five-fold and retention is nearly at 100% with the cadets who have graduated from the Cadet Great Start program. DuRall says, "The program has done wonders to help us become known to the general community and to help bring in a group of young cadets that have a real passion for Civil Air Patrol, who want to get all they can out of the program."

For Azle Composite Squadron, Cadet Great Start has been a game changer that breathed new life into the unit when it needed it the most. Although there is still room for maturing the squadron, with 22 active cadets and nine active senior members, there is optimism and hope for the future. Three Cadet Great Start classes are currently planned for 2021, with the next one beginning on April 6, 2021. 



Top: Arizona Wing Government Relations Advisor Lt. Col. Gordon Helm hosts a virtual meeting with a member of Arizona's congressional delegation for 2021 National Legislative Days. (Photo: Maj. Margot Myers)

Arizona Wing's National Legislative Days Meetings Occur Virtually

by Lt. Col. Gordon Helm, CAP, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – In late February each year, Arizona Wing senior members and cadets join other wings converging on Capitol Hill for the annual Legislative Day meetings with their state congressional delegations. Intended to promote support for Civil Air Patrol's annual appropriations request, the meetings are scheduled in Washington to provide lawmakers with a visual presence of hundreds of uniformed CAP members walking the halls of Congress seeking

time with their members to discuss CAP's varied missions on behalf of the nation, states, and communities.

Arizona Wing prides itself on scheduling meetings with all 11 members of Arizona's congressional delegation. Typically, Wing leadership sends a team of six senior and four cadet members each year. For senior members, it is an opportunity to talk with lawmakers about the wing's continuing commitment to Arizona. Cadets not only attend meetings to talk about their experiences in CAP, but they also have an opportunity to see how government works at the national level. In their free time, the cadets also tour the National Mall, monuments, and museums.

That was not to be in 2021.

Just days after the 2020 Washington trip, CAP joined the rest of America in curtailing in person gatherings to protect its members from the COVID-19 pandemic that continues today.

As virtual meetings took over from in-person gatherings, there was also a shift for National Legislative Day in 2021. CAP national leaders directed the wings to conduct remote meetings with their lawmakers, who themselves were working from home or mostly empty offices. As the meetings would be virtual, wings were given a three-week period beginning in mid-February to schedule and hold virtual meetings with members of Congress and/or their staff.

"The wing government relations advisor suggested we limit the senior members conducting the meetings to three to make sure we communicated consistently to our audience," said Arizona Wing Commander Col. Rob Pinckard. Maj. Margot Myers, the wing public affairs officer, was the third senior member.

There was good news for cadets during this year's virtual meetings. Because there was no trip to Washington involved, more cadets were able to participate. Ten cadets were selected for their ability to represent Arizona Wing cadet programs and because they live in a particular representative's congressional district.

Myers was responsible for identifying available cadets to join the meetings, and 10 cadets were selected to tell their stories to lawmakers and their staffs. They included: Cadet 1st Lt. Joey Burkhart, Yuma Composite Squadron; Cadet 1st Lt. Solomon Carey, Davis-Monthan Composite Squadron; Cadet Capt. Alexander Diaz, Neotoma Composite Squadron; Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Elainea Franklin, Yuma Composite Squadron; Cadet 2nd Lt. Sean Geraghty, Sky Harbor Composite Squadron; Cadet Lt. Col. Jacob Kottraba, Eloy Composite Squadron; Cadet Capt. Brenden Miller, Deer Valley Composite Squadron; Cadet Lt. Col. Weiss O'Connor, Deer Valley Composite Squadron; Cadet 1st Lt. Alex Westwood, Falcon Composite Squadron; and Cadet Lt. Col. Viet Zaengle, Willie Composite Squadron.

"Our Legislative Days visits were definitely different this year," Myers said. "No running from one House office building to another to get to our next appointment. No lunches in the noisy, chaotic House cafeteria. But in some ways, our virtual meetings with congressional staff members were more relaxed and we had great success with telling our story about how Arizona

Wing members have continued to serve our communities despite the pandemic."

Arizona Wing used the entire three-week period to complete its schedule of meetings. Rather than a full schedule of meetings in one or two days, this year's schedule had only one or two meetings per day, sometimes with days in between appointments.

Despite the pandemic, the business of the Congress continues. Even with the extra time to schedule meetings, members were not always able to participate due to conflicts. In those cases, CAP members met with senior advisors.

The wing delegation first met with the legislative director for Rep. David Schweikert, 6th District. Rep. Anne Kirkpatrick, 2nd District, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, personally attended the second scheduled meeting, hearing about the wing's pandemic response. Meetings with staff members for Reps. Greg Stanton, 9th District, Ruben Gallego, 7th District, and Andy Biggs, 5th District, followed.

Reps. Debbie Lesko, 8th District, and Paul Gosar, 4th District, both personally met with Pinckard and staff. Lesko outlined her previous support for CAP during the conversation.

Staff for both Reps. Tom O'Halleran, 1st District, and Raul Grijalva, 3rd District, were interested in Arizona Wing's continuing pandemic missions.

Sen. Kyrsten Sinema was scheduled to meet with Pinckard for five minutes at the end of the wing's briefing of her military and appropriations staff. When she joined, she too wanted to hear about the three pandemic-related missions the wing has conducted during the past year. After a 10-minute brief by Myers, Sinema told her staff she wanted to promote the work of Arizona Wing in her social media channels. A first tweet on March 21 recognized the food delivery and emergency blood donation missions being carried out by Arizona Wing. A second tweet on March 24 highlighted the Arizona Wing for transporting COVID-19 test kits.

Newly elected Sen. Mark Kelly had just hired his military affairs assistant as the CAP meetings were being scheduled. His staff member, with experience from years of working in the House, already knew about CAP and was very interested in Arizona Wing's contributions to the state and nation.

"While the 2021 Legislative Day meetings were certainly successful, with support voiced by virtually every member of the delegation, everyone is looking forward to a return to Washington in 2022," said Pinckard. "There is that added benefit of exposure and impact when we all show up in uniform to meet at the Capitol." 🇺🇸

Below: Sen. Kyrsten Sinema tweets on March 21 about the Arizona Wing's COVID-19 emergency blood donation and food delivery missions. (Screen shot)



Kyrsten Sinema ✓ @SenatorSinema · Mar 21

...

The Civil Air Patrol's Arizona Wing (@AZWing_CAP) delivered meals to Arizonans in quarantine and offered its squadron buildings for over 50 emergency blood donation events during the pandemic. ❤️



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Texas Wing Squadron Chaplain Honored

by 1st Lt Stephen Wright, CAP, Texas Wing

WACO, Texas – On January 20, 2021, CAP Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James E. Williams of the Waco Composite Squadron was honored by Civil Air Patrol Southwest Region Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Nancy Smalley for his contributions to the CAP Chaplain Corps, especially for his efforts in local COVID-19 pandemic relief.

Chaplain Williams supported all six of the Waco Composite Squadron's recent pandemic food distribution activities at Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry in Robinson, Texas. Civil Air Patrol Southwest Region Chaplain staff took notice of Chaplain Williams' contribution, as well as other Southwest Region Volunteer Chaplains, by recognizing COVID-19 pandemic relief missions along with other Southwest Region missions conducted in 2020 with a special challenge coin designed by CAP Lt. Col. Jane Smalley of Red Oak Cadet Squadron.



Above: The challenge coin's COVID-19 and Hurricane faces.

The coin specifically recognizes the extraordinary achievements of Southwest Region Chaplains in all eight of the 2020 Hurricane relief responses they mounted during the unprecedented 2020 hurricane season and recognizes the COVID-19 pandemic response missions from all six of Southwest Region's member Wings. Chaplain Smalley presented the coin to Chaplain Williams in a simple ceremony.

Chaplain Smalley said, "As I was looking at this year, 2020, I looked for a way to remember the historical events that have affected the Southwest Region. With the help of my daughter Jane Smalley, I created a coin to present to the members of the Chaplain Corps who served in some capacity during these missions. It was also a way to thank you for your service and to remind you of these historical events."

Chaplain Williams expressed his appreciation for the recognition from Chaplain Smalley, and also for the opportunity to serve in some capacity to help people whose lives were disrupted by these simultaneous major disasters.

Traditional CAP activities usually develop along the lines of CAP's three congressionally mandated missions in Emergency Services, Cadet Programs, and Aerospace Education. In this case, COVID-19 severely impacted CAP's ability to operate and perform normal missions. To meet the unprecedented needs of people whose lives are seriously affected by the ongoing pandemic, CAP authorized a new emergency services disaster relief mission for its personnel to operate at the request of local nonprofits and governments. To prepare for this support activity, the Chaplain, along with all Waco Composite Squadron personnel, prepared by training on a FEMA Point-Of-Distribution (PODs) course. 🇺🇸



Top: (L-R) Squadron Cadet Activities Officer 1st Lt. Valerie Titus, CAP USAF Col. Allyson Chauvin, Cadet Lt. Col. Luke Titus, and Squadron Commander Lt. Col. William Hunton. (Photo: Capt. Jeffrey Coit, CAP)

Louisiana Wing Cadet Earns the Civil Air Patrol Ira C. Eaker Award

by Lt. Col. Kathy Beauford, CAP, Louisiana Wing

NEW ORLEANS – On February 23, 2021, during a ceremony at the Pontchartrain Cadet Squadron, CAP USAF Col. Allyson Chauvin presented Cadet Lt. Col. Luke Titus with the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Ira C. Eaker Award Certificate, the second-highest promotion in the CAP cadet program. Titus, who is his squadron's cadet commander, is working toward his pilot's license at the New Orleans Flight Club and has already passed the FAA Knowledge Exam. He wants to pursue higher education at the U.S. Air Force Academy and fly for the US Air Force.

Titus has merited the Southwest Region Commander's Commendation Award, the Wing Commander's Commendation Award, and the VFW NCO of the Year Award. At Louisiana Wing Encampment at Barksdale Air Force, he was chosen the honor cadet from a field of approximately 100 cadets from Louisiana and Texas Wings.

Titus is the assistant delegate to the Louisiana Wing Cadet Advisory Council. He has served as the squadron cadet flight sergeant and committee chairman for the Louisiana Wing Cadet Olympiad. He serves as Southwest Region cadet diversity liaison, Louisiana Wing cadet diversity liaison, SWR cadet advisory council primary representative, and Louisiana Wing cadet advisory council vice-chairman.

Titus exhibits exemplary leadership and knowledge of the CAP cadet program. In his 4 years in CAP, he has tested, performed, and promoted in record time. Currently, he serves as cadet commander and as leadership officer and emergency services officer. Yearly, CAP provides 90% of the search and rescue in the US, saving from 100 to 149 lives a year.

He is a senior at Lusher Charter School and an offensive lineman on Lusher's Varsity Football Team. He established the U.S. Colors Club for the raising of the school's flags. 🇺🇸



Texas Wing Cadet Earns Spaatz Award, Civil Air Patrol's Highest Cadet Grade

by 2nd Lt. Jeremy Agor, CAP, Texas Wing

DALLAS – For the second time ever, a cadet in the Civil Air Patrol's Red Bird Composite Squadron in Dallas has earned the Spaatz Award and therefore achieving the grade of Cadet Colonel, the highest opened to a cadet in the organization.

Cleveland Brown Jr., a senior at Lake Ridge High School in Mansfield, earned the honor on February 27, 2021, after completing a rigorous process that includes exams on leadership and aerospace, an essay, and successful completion of the United States Air Force Academy Candidate Fitness Assessment. He has been a member of Civil Air Patrol since 2017.

"It has been a challenging journey, but when I found out I passed my last test I felt a sense of relief and pride at what I'd accomplished," said Brown. "The most rewarding aspect of my time in Civil Air Patrol has been the leadership skills and confidence that I've gained, as well as the people I've met, socialized with and learned from."


Fewer than 3,000 cadets have earned the Spaatz Award since its inception in 1964, or roughly 1% of all cadets involved in Civil Air Patrol. Col Bill Schroder, Commander of CAP's Texas Wing, commended Brown on his achievement. "I am proud of all of our Cadets, especially Cadet Colonel Brown, for thriving while under adverse conditions. I look forward to the great things he will do, including those after CAP. I know America is in great hands," Schroder said.

Brown serves as Red Bird Squadron's cadet commander. He is Ground Team 3 certified for Civil Air Patrol search-and-rescue missions and has completed Airman Leadership School, Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, and Officer Training School. In addition, he has competed as a member of the squadron's CyberPatriot team.

Brown's younger brother Jacob is the squadron's deputy cadet commander and was the first cadet from Red Bird Squadron to earn the Spaatz Award, in August 2020. Joining his brother at the pinnacle of cadet achievements made the accomplishment even more meaningful for Brown.

"Jacob and I have been through a lot and experienced a lot in Civil Air Patrol. Going through this process with him has been rewarding, and I'm happy for both of us. It was challenging, but it was good to know I had support from him, my parents and my relatives," Brown said. "I want to thank everyone who's helped me get to this point, especially Maj. Lee Williams, Capt. Jerra Williams and Maj. Phil Gerke. They've guided me from the time I joined all the way through, and I appreciate it."

Brown's parents, Capt. Cleveland and 1st Lt Shemitia Brown, are involved in Civil Air Patrol as well. They joined the organization at the same time as their sons, and Capt. Brown was later installed as the squadron commander in 2019.

Carl "Tooe" Spaatz was the first to serve as Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force. One of the giants in the history of airpower, in 1929 Spaatz, together with a crew that included Ira C. Eaker, set an important flight endurance record of 150 hours and 40 minutes in the early days of aviation. During World War II, he commanded the Allied air campaign against the Nazis. In the Pacific Theater, the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki took place under his command. After retiring from the Air Force, General Spaatz served as the first chairman of the Civil Air Patrol National Board. 

(Photo: 2nd Lt. Jeremy Agor, CAP)



Left: Cadets from Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron participate in their first in-person drill practice in more than a year. (All photos: Maj. Mary A. Fox, CAP)

New Mexico Wing Squadron Tackles COVID-19 Challenges to Resume In Person Meetings

by Maj. Mary A. Fox, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – One year ago, on March 12, 2020, during a parent support meeting, the commander and staff of Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron were notified that all public schools would be shut down on the following Monday, March 16. Everyone's immediate reaction was that they were having the last squadron meeting, and no one knew when or if the squadron would ever meet again. At the time, going virtual was not even a consideration. After a



long silence, one parent spoke up, "Please," she said, "You cannot close down these meetings. This is all my daughter has left!"

Left: Cadet Antonio Malagon, with his mother at his side, earns his promotion to cadet airman and his Curry Achievement at the squadron's February 18 virtual meeting.

Below: Lt. Col. Frederick Harsany, USAF (ret.) New Mexico Air Force Association President, and Albuquerque AFA Chapter President (left inset photo), presents the AFA Outstanding Cadet Award to Cadet Master Sgt. Aiden Jones, (right inset photo, in ABUs.)

Without delay, the Spirit Squadron held its first virtual meeting on the week after the announcement, on March 19, 2020. On March 18, 2021, the squadron completed its 50th virtual meeting. Nine new cadets and two new senior members joined during the pandemic. Three of these cadets have earned the Wright Brothers Award – signifying completion of Phase I of CAP's four-phase Cadet Program, and promotion to cadet staff sergeant – and are currently testing for promotion to cadet technical sergeant. A fourth cadet plans to test for the Wright Brothers Award on March 20, 2021.

In August 2020, as the cadets headed back to a virtual school setting, the squadron leadership was able to keep cadets returning each week for 50 weeks. Although the squadron has had an 11-member increase over the past 12 months, it also saw a five-member decrease, because of complications resulting from COVID-19 restrictions, and the requirement to remain virtual. The battle to keep the enrollment steady each week has not been easy, but the efforts of all its members is consistent and has succeeded.

One year later – almost to the day – on March 13, 2021, the squadron held its first outdoor, face-to-face gathering. Eight cadets and two senior members met at the Spirit Squadron Headquarters parking lot for drill practice. The cadets that gathered on that day had not seen

each other in an entire year, and one cadet, who joined after the pandemic began, had never met anyone in person prior to that day. After an hour of one-on-one training, the cadets spent the last 30 minutes marching together as a flight – the first time they had done so in more than a year.

During the weekend of March 20-21, 2021, the squadron held its first outdoor physical training (PT) activity, another drill training, another PT training and glider orientation flights – all of them by the end of the month. The commitment of cadets, senior members and parents has allowed the squadron to stay alive. By overcoming the challenges of COVID-19, the squadron has continued to flourish. 🇺🇸





Top: Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Andrew Wilson at the airport. (Photo: 1st Lt. Roger Aylstock, CAP)

Texas Wing Cadet Accepted into CAP Cadet Wings Program

by 1st Lt. Roger Aylstock, CAP, Texas Wing

SAN MARCOS, Texas – In March 2021, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Andrew Wilson of David Lee "Tex" Hill Composite Squadron in San Marcos was accepted into the Cadet Wings Program. Cadet Wings provides funded training to selected Civil Air Patrol (CAP) cadets for them to earn their Private Pilot Certificate (PPC) in the Airplane (Single Engine Land – ASEL otherwise known as powered), Glider, or Lighter-than-air (Balloon) categories and classes. The U.S. Air Force has allocated CAP funds for CAP cadet flight training with the goal of fulfilling its mission of developing tomorrow's aerospace leaders.

Wilson was exposed to general aviation through the CAP Orientation Ride program that provides introductory rides in a CAP airplane and lets the cadet handle the controls under trained pilot supervision. He currently has 27.7 flight hours and 3.4 hours solo time and is training two to three times a week.

As part of the Youth Aviation Initiative, Cadet Wings is a merit-based program, providing formal flight training for CAP cadets pursuing a PPC, that is recognized by industry as the first milestone for those who have a serious desire to pursue a flying career. Cadet Wings also includes needs-based elements to remove financial barriers for economically disadvantaged cadets. So far, there have been 75 graduates of the Wings Program. Now in its second year, Cadet Wings has 68 pilot candidates enrolled in the United States.

Wilson is the aerospace officer of the San Marcos Composite Squadron and has additionally taken on the role of aerospace mentor, where he will mentor, advise and assist the new aerospace officer in training. He has also just been promoted from flight sergeant to first sergeant, in which capacity he becomes responsible of all cadet non-commissioned officers and airmen in the squadron. His goal is to become a fighter pilot in the US military and feels that the Wings program is a great opportunity to begin his education and career in aviation. 🇺🇸



Top: (L-R): New Mexico Director of Cadet Programs Lt. Col. Andrew Selph, MCSS Assistant Manager Allen Garcia, MCSS Manager Julian Portillo, and New Mexico Wing Central Group Commander Lt. Col. Michael E. Eckert complete loading ABUs for transport to New Mexico Wing HQ. (Photo: Kirtland AFB MCSS)

New Mexico Wing Receives ABUs from MCSS

by Lt. Col. Andrew F. Selph, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M – With the United States Air Force retiring its Airman Battle Uniform (ABU), New Mexico Wing was contacted in November 2020 by the Military Clothing Sales Stores (MCSS) located at each of the state's three Air Force Bases – Holloman AFB in Alamogordo, Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque and Cannon AFB in Clovis – regarding the authorized transfer of their remaining ABU stock to Civil Air Patrol.

The ABU, which had become the Air Force's primary utility uniform beginning in 2007, will become obsolete on April 1, 2021, when the Air Force completes their transition to the Airman Combat Uniform-Operational Camouflage Pattern (ACUOCP).

Civil Air Patrol was authorized wear of the ABU in 2016, and will complete its transition on June 15, 2021, when the Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) is retired from CAP service. With the June date approaching quickly, the ABU transfer is a windfall for cadets and senior members that have not yet replaced their BDUs, and new members needing to be outfitted.

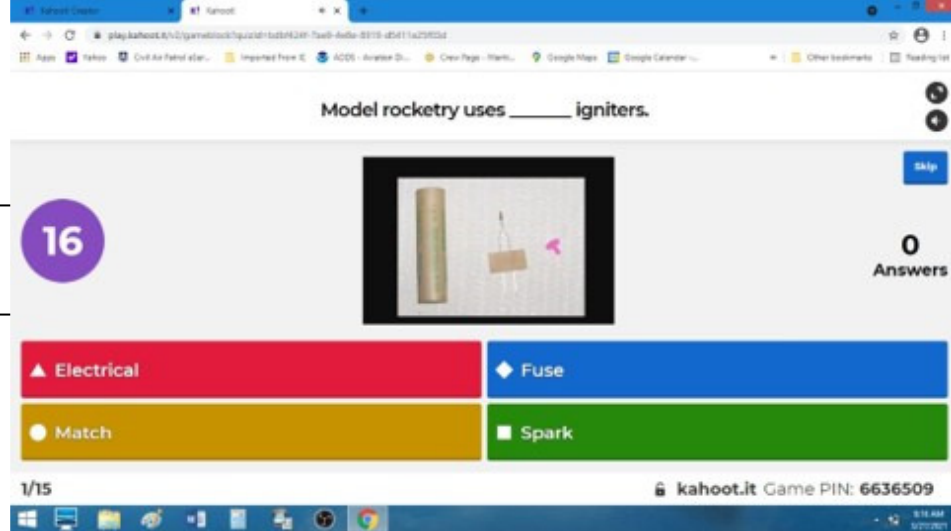
In making the transfer, Kirtland AFB MCSS manager Julian Portillo noted that the items – that included coats, trousers, T-shirts and caps in both male and female sizing – “represented about \$16,000 worth of inventory when it was on the shelves.” Cannon AFB MCSS and Holloman AFB MCSS made similar transfers to nearby CAP units.

Units who have members in need of ABUs are encouraged to determine their members' sizing needs and submit their requests to Wing Supply. The ABU is among several Air Force-style and Corporate field and utility uniforms authorized for CAP members in performance of their duties. Members should consult CAPR 39-1, *CAP Uniform Regulation*, for proper sizing, insignia configuration, and wear guidance. 🇺🇸

Right: During the model rocketry lesson, a Kahoot! Quiz screen asks participants about rocket igniters.

Arizona Wing Cadets and Senior Members Study Aerospace Education Above and Beyond

by Maj. Ron Marks, CAP, Arizona Wing



PHOENIX – Arizona Wing’s Aerospace Education (AE) team has remained active during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite a lack of in-person meetings, the team has undertaken multiple efforts to help both cadets and senior members continue learning about a variety of AE topics.

In December 2020, the team launched an online quiz to study the text in Aerospace Dimensions and Model Rocketry and has completed two quarterly sessions. Cadets from across Arizona participated in three online quizzes using the Kahoot! interactive app. Maj. Bob Kaye, Arizona Wing deputy AE director (Internal) developed the quizzes and led the events. In addition to special recognition, \$25 Amazon gift cards were presented to the top three performers in each challenge.

Kaye praised cadets and senior members who participated in extracurricular aerospace study activities over the last few months for their desire to continue learning despite the pandemic. “We realize it was extremely difficult for the cadets being in an unfamiliar, perhaps totally remote school environment,” Kaye said. “In order to keep cadets engaged and help them advance their studies in the CAP aerospace curriculum programs, as well as continue promoting, the Arizona Wing AE team conducted some innovative activities in the past three months.

“The Kahoot! platform provides not only a method to present information but a way to have the participants get physically engaged in the process, instead of simply watching an on-screen presentation,” Kaye said.

The winning cadets in the first two quarterly challenges included:

First Quarterly Quiz – Aerospace Dimensions 1&2 and Model Rocketry – December 1, 2020

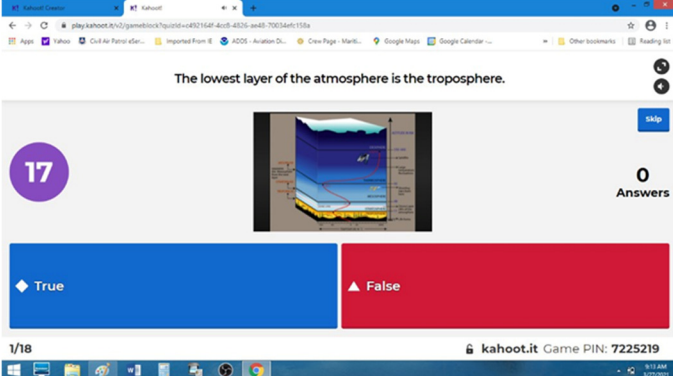
- 1st Place: 29,073 points, Cadet 2nd Lt. Liam Proctor, Willie Composite Squadron
- 2nd Place: 28,531 points, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Joey Buix, Neotoma Composite Squadron
- 3rd Place: 22,558 points, Cadet Master Sgt. Jon DeLuca, Prescott Composite Squadron

Second Quarterly Quiz – Aerospace Dimensions 3&4 and Model Rocketry – March 2, 2021

- 1st Place: 42,258 points, Cadet 1st Lt. Kenneth (Joey) Burkart, Yuma Composite Squadron
- 2nd Place: 36,636 points, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Levon Tucker, Davis-Monthan Composite Squadron
- 3rd Place: 36,042 points, Cadet Airman Benjamin Wilmoth, 388th Composite Squadron

“Thank you to all of the cadets who participated in this challenge,” said Kaye. “We hope you found it fun and gained some knowledge.”

The Arizona Wing AE team plans to continue holding these quarterly challenges. They also will make these Kahoot quizzes available to squadrons for use in their meetings.



Left: In the aerospace dimensions lesson, Kahoot! Quiz participants answer a question about the layers of the Earth's atmosphere.

Right: Arizona Wing cadets who completed the STEM challenge in January receive this STEM Basic badge in recognition of their achievement.



"This is a great way to involve cadets in an interactive session where they use their smartphones to demonstrate both speed and accuracy in responding to questions about material that they have studied as they progress in AE programs," said Kaye.

The Arizona Wing AE team is also focused on helping squadron Aerospace Education officers who are working with senior members to achieve the General Chuck Yeager Award. They have scheduled a series of online quiz and review sessions following the Journey of Flight textbook. These sessions are designed to help the senior member prepare for the final exam covering the material required to earn the award. The AE team used the Kahoot! online quiz program just as they did for the cadet quizzes. "Participation in the first class was minimal but the session went very well," said Kaye, "and the AE team anticipates more senior members will join in the upcoming months."

The Aerospace Education team also launched a challenge for cadets to earn the STEM Basic badge, which is authorized for wear on the U.S. Air Force-style blue uniform and is added to their permanent personnel record. Earning this badge requires achievement of the Mary Feik award, 12 hours of study from a list of approved aerospace topics, and a career dossier on a profession from one of the studied topics. The challenge was to complete this work over the holiday break and prior to the deadline of January 31, 2021. Arizona Wing is sending these cadets their STEM basic badges in order to provide special recognition. Kaye developed several curriculum tracks that the cadets were able to follow to complete this accomplishment.

The following Arizona Wing cadets completed the STEM basic badge requirements:

- Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Elainea Franklin, Yuma Composite Squadron
- Cadet 2nd Lt. Dean Kearn, Eloy Composite Squadron
- Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Gavin Meelhuysen, Deer Valley Composite Squadron
- Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Caleb Miller, Deer Valley Composite Squadron
- Cadet 2nd Lt. Liam Proctor, Willie Composite Squadron
- Cadet 2nd Lt. Colton Quackenbush, Davis-Monthan Composite Squadron
- Cadet Senior Airman Bunyan Reinke, Deer Valley Composite Squadron
- Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Christabel Reinke, Deer Valley Composite Squadron

The following cadets will receive the STEM basic badge upon completing Achievement 3 and promoting to cadet senior airman:

- Cadet Airman Jack Hopkins, Neotoma Composite Squadron
- Cadet Airman Annabel Peltzer, Sky Harbor Composite Squadron
- Cadet Airman 1st Class Mia Snyder, Prescott Composite Squadron

A special honorary award goes to Jeff Hess, who completed the challenge while waiting to join CAP as a cadet with the Show Low Composite Squadron. Hess began attending virtual meetings in November 2020 and as soon as he reached the age of 12, joined CAP. He completed all required training in a month to become eligible to promote and became Cadet Airman Hess at the Show Low Squadron's first in-person meeting on March 20, 2021.

"It has been a challenging time promoting and executing our Aerospace Education mission over the past year and we are looking forward to returning to a little normalcy," Kaye said. 🇺🇸



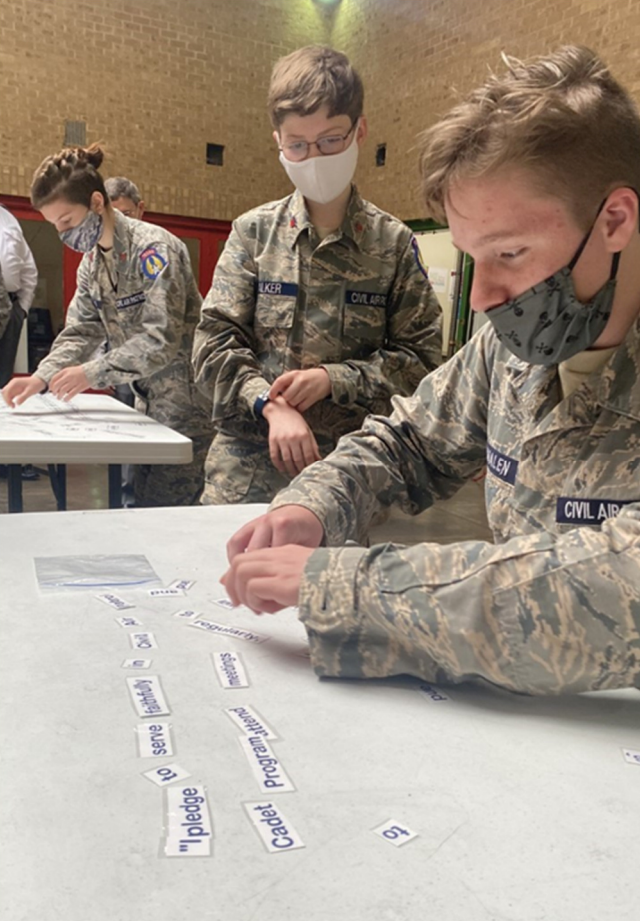
Top: Cadets practice elementary moves necessary for learning the manual of arms. (Photo: Maj. Phil Gerke, CAP)

A Texas Wing Cadet Squadron Creates a Vacation Leadership School

by Maj. Phil Gerke, CAP, Texas Wing

CEDAR HILL, Texas – In March 2021, Newman Academy Cadet Squadron completed their second Vacation Leadership School. This two-day education and training event was held during the Newman International Academy district's spring break. The purpose of the event was to help cadets know and complete the specific requirements for their next promotion. All 18 participating cadets made progress, six became eligible for their promotion review board, and one completed it. Each 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily event was mentored by five squadron senior members and assisted by a nurse volunteer.

The first Vacation Leadership School was the brainchild of deputy commander 1st Lt. Ruby Russell, "We were eight weeks old as a squadron, and needed time to build a foundation in our cadets. The two-week winter break was coming up, the academic building was available, and we knew that COVID-19 had grounded the Texas Wing Winter Encampment. Following the guidance that Civil Air Patrol's National Commander Maj. Gen. Mark Smith had given, encouraging a 'need for creativity,' it seemed that it would be good to take advantage of this time and this facility by doing something like an old-fashioned Vacation Bible School." The squadron brainstormed an activity-packed schedule that touched on all five aspects of the program cadets needed for



promotion: Leadership, Aerospace Education, Character Development, Physical Fitness, and Drill and Ceremonies.

Left: Cadets learning the meaning and spirit of the CAP Core Values.

Below: Cadet goals are posted where everyone can see them.

The second Vacation Leadership School was organized around a phrase from a song that students sing every week. The Newman International Academy school song goes, "We rise to build our Nation...." Therefore, it was easy to turn "rise" into an acronym for Respect, Integrity, Service and Excellence – the four core values of Civil Air Patrol.

The content of the second Vacation Leadership School was tailored to each cadet. A tracking report specified what each cadet needed for promotion, and cadets set a goal for what requirements they wanted to accomplish during the event. These goals were written on a yellow sticky note and posted on the wall in one corner of the main room as a reminder of why the cadet was there. Cadets could see each other's goals and provide support and encouragement.

Each morning and afternoon of the two-day event focused on at least one of the values. For example, Wednesday's themes were Respect and Integrity. After their quiet time in

the classroom, the cafeteria was converted into a ping-pong arena where cadets were seeded into a tournament without referees. Thursday's themes were Volunteer Service and Excellence. Cadets were issued neoprene gloves and shopping bags and were given 20 minutes to police the grounds around the building and be back in their seats; in the process, they also found treasures: several balls that had fallen outside the playgrounds. That afternoon, cadets learned that they could also serve their community by presenting the colors at special events. The best cadets at the drill competition were rewarded with training on the manual of arms from CAP Pamphlet 60-33. Cadets' excellence was tested in an amusing way in a competition to see who could unscramble the cadet oath using manipulatives.

Newman Academy Cadet Squadron is the newest manifestation of Civil Air Patrol's Middle School initiative in Texas. Only five school squadrons exist in the state, and there are only 42 nationally. The squadron is headquartered on the Cedar Hill campus of Newman International Academy, a Title I Charter School founded in 2011 by Dr. Sheba George, Ph.D.

The event was authorized and supported by Newman International Academy administrators, such as Cedar Hill campus Elementary School Principal Holly Temte. Largely responsible for the squadron's successful start was her willingness to adapt the academic schedule to fit Civil Air Patrol's requirements. The result is that 15 of the 44 squadron cadets are in the sixth grade.

The commitment of parents and guardians was also instrumental in the success of both Vacation Leadership Schools. They were willing to work this event into their family plans for the break. They provided the transportation for their cadet children to attend. After the event, parents commented that their children were benefitting from the education and training they were receiving in the structured environment of CAP. 🇺🇸





Top: (L-R): New insignia and patches for the USAF-style Flight Duty Uniform (FDU), the USAF-style flight jacket, and the Corporate Flight Duty Uniform (CFDU). (Graphic: CAP National Headquarters)

New Flight Suit Guidance Goes into Effect August 1

by Lt. Col. Andrew F. Selph, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Beginning August 1, 2021, CAPR 39-1, *CAP Uniform Regulation*, states that Civil Air Patrol Flight Duty Uniforms (FDUs) will be reconfigured with changes to grade insignia, name badges and command insignia. These changes apply to both the USAF-style FDU and the Corporate FDU (for members who are unable or who choose not to wear the USAF-style FDU). Links for the replacement insignia are listed below.

Among these changes, plastic-encased grade insignia will be replaced by silver or gold embroidered grade insignia on dark blue cloth shoulder insignia.

<https://www.vanguardmil.com/collections/nco-insignia-and-cloth-insignia>

The black leather nametag that is currently worn will be replaced with the silver embroidered insignia on dark blue cloth with silver border. <https://www.vanguardmil.com/products/civil-airpatrol-blue-cloth-name-patch-single-emblem>

The black crew-neck T-shirt will be replaced by the sand (tan) crew-neck Tshirt. <https://www.vanguardmil.com/products/civil-air-patrol-uniform-t-shirttan?variant=43226821775>

Additionally, members should ensure that they are wearing the correct left shoulder American Flag patch. <https://www.vanguardmil.com/products/usa-flag-patch-with-velcro-gold-edge>

Members authorized to wear the Flight Duty Uniform should consult CAPR 39-1 (page 99) for complete sizing and wear guidance.

https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/CAPR_039_001_5_Mar_2020_6EA485E9593C8.pdf

Members should allow themselves ample time to order the replacement insignia prior to the August 1 wear date.

All uniform items are available through Vanguard, the official supplier for CAP uniforms, at www.vanguardmil.com. 🇺🇸



Top: (L-R) Cadets 2nd Lt. Jeremiah Wood, Lincoln Brewer and Connor Hawkins, Mayor Jane Hughson, Councilman Shane Scott, CAP Lt. Col. Stan Trull, and CAP Capt. Mauricio Urquiola. (Photo: 1st Lt. Roger Alstock, CAP)

San Marcos Mayor Jane Hughson Presents Texas Wing Awards

by 1st Lt. Roger Aylstock, CAP, Texas Wing

SAN MARCOS, Texas – On the evening of March 23, 2021, San Marcos Mayor Jane Hughson presented the Brig. Gen. Billy Mitchell Award to three cadets from the David Lee "Tex" Hill Composite Squadron of Civil Air Patrol in San Marcos, Texas. Cadet 2nd Lieutenants Lincoln Brewer, Connor Hawkins and Jeremiah Wood received the award at a ceremony at the squadron building that is adjacent to the San Marcos Airport.

The Mitchell Award marks completion of Phase II of the CAP Cadet Program, recognizing sustained excellence in all four areas of cadet life: leadership, aerospace education, physical fitness, and character development. It marks the end of the enlisted phase of the cadet program when cadets are promoted to cadet second lieutenants upon receipt, that marks their entry into cadet officer life. In order to qualify for this award, Mitchell cadets must have passed a physical fitness test, comprehensive examinations on leadership and aerospace education topics, and completed a weeklong encampment immersing them in a challenging core values and STEM environment. The award is given in honor of Brig. Gen. William "Billy" Mitchell, former Deputy Chief of the Army Air Service and military aviation visionary, who was posthumously promoted to major general in 1942 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in recognition of his contributions to the nation's air defense arm.

The U.S. Air Force respects the accomplishments of Mitchell Award recipients. Mitchell cadets who enlist in the Air Force enter the service at the advanced grade of E-3, airman first class. The service also looks favorably upon Mitchell cadets when evaluating AFROTC and Academy applicants. Mitchell cadets are also eligible for various CAP scholarships and CAP special activity opportunities.

Also participating in the ceremony were San Marcos Councilman Shane Scott, Texas Wing Director of Cadet Programs Lt. Col. Stan Trull, and San Marcos Composite Squadron Deputy Commander for Cadets Capt. Mauricio Urquiola. Cadet 2nd Lt. Sarah Janicki was the master of ceremonies for the event. 🇺🇸



Top: (L-R) Cadet 1st Lt. Joey Burkart, Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Evan Apodaca, and Cadet Senior Airman Ethan Apodaca put shovels and rakes to work to clean up Contreras Field. (Photos: Maj. Robert Kaye, CAP)

Yuma Composite Squadron Members Clean Up Model Airfield

by Maj. Robert Kaye, CAP, Arizona Wing

YUMA, Ariz. – Weeds had been growing and trash had been collecting at Contreras Field, the site that the Yuma Aeromodelers club uses to fly their remote-controlled aircraft. The airfield is located in east Yuma just west of the Yuma Foothills. The area is popular with target shooting gun enthusiasts and offroaders. It also has been the site for numerous Yuma Composite Squadron activities over the years.

It was time for a clean-up and a request for volunteers went out to club members and the community. On March 20, 2021, a contingent from Yuma Composite Squadron including Cadet 1st Lt. Joey Burkart, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Justin Obregon, Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Evan Apodaca, and Cadet Senior Airman Ethan Apodaca, along with senior members Squadron Commander 1st Lt. Albert Ustaszewski, 2nd Lt. Cecilia Braithwaite, and Maj. Robert Kaye showed up to help. The group came armed with enthusiasm, gloves, shovels, rakes, and weed removal tools.

“Everyone put in several hours of hard, physical work,” said Ustaszewski. “Along with club members, I think Team 508 made a big difference in the airfield’s appearance.”

The Fly-By, Southwest Region, April 2021

Billy Rose, a board member of Yuma Aeromodelers posted the following email, “We wanted to thank everyone who showed up Saturday to help out with the field clean-up day. We had a good showing and a lot of good work got done. A special thanks to the Civil Air Patrol cadets who came out and helped.”

The squadron and Yuma Aeromodelers have a relationship that goes back many years. CAP cadets and senior members have helped direct traffic at the Aeromodelers annual airshow. The Aeromodelers have sponsored radio control training flights for cadets, held cookouts, and allowed the squadron to use their facility for model rocketry events.

“These activities have helped Yuma 508 promote its aerospace education and STEM missions. Helping out with the cleanup demonstrates a commitment to our core value of volunteerism,” Ustaszewski said. 🇺🇸

Below: Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Justin Obregon cleans debris along the fence line at Contreras Field.





Top: (L-R) Squadron Commander Maj. George Otto presents the squadron's Cadet Member of the Year to Cadet Col. Lee McDonald credit (Photo: Capt. William Wood, CAP)

Texas Wing Cadet is Chosen his Squadron's Cadet Member of the Year by Capt. William Wood, CAP, Texas Wing

KERRVILLE, Texas – On January 13, 2021, Cadet Col. Lee McDonald was presented the squadron's Cadet Member of the Year Certificate. He is a recipient of the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award.

Cadet McDonald has a long list of accomplishments during his time in Kerrville Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol. He earned the Spaatz award in June of 2020. The Spaatz award marks the completion of several milestones, including 16 rank accomplishments. The Spaatz exam is a series of physical fitness, aerospace, and leadership tests, and an argumentative essay on a moral topic. Lee reached this milestone after 6 years in the program.

Lee became Cadet Commander in 2018 and served in that capacity until January of 2020. During that time, the squadron grew from 8 to 26 cadets and became very active in Texas Wing programs. Lee attended several National Cadet Special Activities (NCSA) such as the Glider Flight Academy, which included a week at the Soaring Club of Houston, where he earned Glider Pre-Solo wings with 8 hours in gliders. He then went to the USAF Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Familiarization Course (SUPT-FC) at Laughlin AFB.

In the past school year Lee was awarded the USAF Joint Chiefs of Staff Private Pilot Flight Academy (AFJROTC Flight Academy) scholarship. He would have spent 8 weeks at Purdue University earning a private pilot license. Unfortunately, it was canceled due to the Corona Virus pandemic. Instead, Lee is working on his PPL locally and has almost finished the ground school portion.

In 2021, Lee is Air Force JROTC Corps commander at Kerrville Tivy High School, with 101 cadets in his unit. As corps commander he is a Cadet Lt. Col. Last year he was deputy commander for teams/training, in charge of all team commanders. In his freshman summer he was selected Distinguished Honor Graduate over 300 other cadets, who were assessed based on knowledge, bearing, and leadership.

Lee's immediate goal after High School graduation is to be accepted into the Air Force Academy and be a pilot in the USAF. The Kerrville Composite Squadron considers him a model cadet. 🇺🇸

Right: (L-R) In 2018, former New Mexico Wing Director of Communications Lt. Col. Paul R. Cline is honored for 50 years of service to CAP by then-New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Mike Lee. (Photo: Las Cruces Composite Squadron Public Affairs)

In Memoriam Paul Cline

by Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, New Mexico Wing

MESILLA PARK, N.M. – On January 22, 2021, former New Mexico Wing Director of Communications Paul R. Cline passed away, after succumbing to kidney failure. Cline, a 50-year member of Civil Air Patrol, was loved and respected by many members of New Mexico Wing.


Cline joined CAP as a cadet in 1968, and later

transitioned into CAP's adult senior program. He served in a number of positions at the squadron and Wing level, serving as wing director of communications from 2005 to 2010. After a six-year hiatus, he returned as director of communications, serving from 2016 until 2018, when he retired from the position.

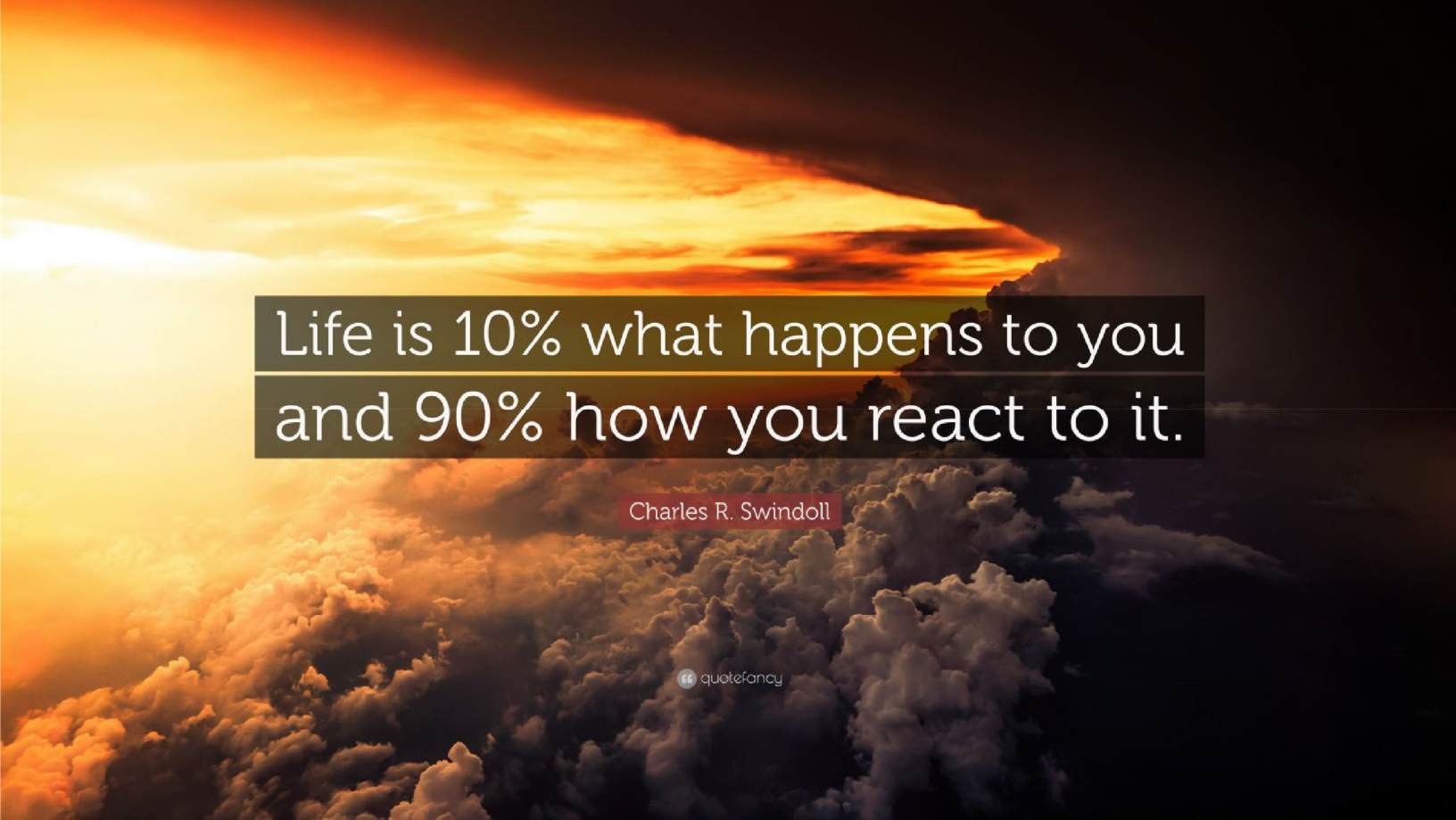
Maj. Roberta Himebrook, advisor to New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette R. Peters, and widow of former New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Richard F. "Ric" Himebrook, reflected on Cline's friendship with her husband. "He and Ric became good friends after Ric became active in CAP again in 1984," she said. "In fact, Paul came to Ric's service," she added, referring to Col. Himebrook's memorial service when he passed away in April 2014.

New Mexico Wing Director of Aerospace Education Lt. Col. Roland Dewing first met Cline in 2005, when Cline was working as a tow pilot for glider orientation flights and glider encampments, which he did for several years. His exploits were written up in *Enchanted Wings: The History of New Mexico Wing, 1941-2010*, by Lt. Col. Ted Sptizmiller and Maj. Gwen Sawyer, both members of New Mexico Wing. The book documents Cline's experience as a mission pilot, and as Wing director of communications. He was also instrumental in helping Las Cruces Composite Squadron acquire its hangar and was named New Mexico Wing's Communicator of the Year in 2007.

Assistant Director of Communications Training Lt. Col. Griffyn Lane remarked on Cline's ability to repair CAP radios that many had thought were gone. "We used to call Paul the 'Santa of Communications,' because he could always make CAP radios come alive, when they broke down or did not function properly," she said. "He was a very big part of the communications team, for the problems he solved with the repeaters in New Mexico that kept going down and needed repairs. He would do communications training, sometimes having 20 people in a communications class. He helped me get my Master Rating in Communications," she added.

Maj. Himebrook summed up the feelings of many members of the Wing. "Paul Cline was a great person, and made a big difference in CAP." 





Life is 10% what happens to you
and 90% how you react to it.

Charles R. Swindoll

quote fancy

(Photo: Brainyquote.com)

Guest Editorial

How Should We Respond?

by Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – To say that 2020 has been a turbulent year would be an understatement. We witnessed political unrest, the spread of a highly contagious virus, a global pandemic, shutdowns, lockdowns and riots. As the year ended, many of us felt discouraged, demoralized and dispirited. How do we respond to this crisis? I can think of at least four ways to help us cope with these challenges:

- **Don't complain about the things you can't control.** Imagine a football team where one of the players always complains about getting tackled. We need to focus on the things we *can* control: our thoughts, our feelings, our actions and our responses to people, places and situations. Pastor Chuck Swindoll has been quoted as saying, "Life is 10% what happens to you, and 90% how you react to it."
- **Accentuate the Positive.** Bad things are bound to happen, but we should always focus on the underlying good in everything. Negative expectations will never yield positive results.
- **Live in the Now.** Anxiety comes from obsessing over the future; guilt from obsessing over the past. We can neither predict what will happen nor change what has happened, so for our own peace of mind, we need to live in the present.

Fly the Plane. A pilot friend of mine told me that whenever he experienced engine trouble, his guiding principle was always to fly the plane. For non-pilots, that means we must tend to the day-to-day activities that contribute to our success. After all, no crisis is permanent, and we will make it through this storm if we remain positive and focused on our success. 🇺🇸

Right: The launch sequence from initiation to Titan missile liftoff was just 58 seconds.

(Photo: U.S. Department of Defense)

Guest Editorial

On the Road with Arizona Wing's 'Dr. Bob' in Tucson, Arizona

by Lt. Col. Bob Ditch, CAP, Arizona Wing

TUCSON, Ariz. – While on the road visiting air and space museums across the country, I discovered a unique underground southwest treasure among the cactus, rattlesnakes, and scorpions of the isolated Sonoran Desert region of southern Arizona.

So... What is sitting underground, is 103 feet tall, 10 feet wide, weighs 300,000 pounds, can climb 900 miles up, but hopefully never goes above the surface of the earth? How about a Titan II intercontinental ballistic missile in its alert silo? That's right, an ICBM and a museum built around it for you to explore are waiting below the hot desert, south of Tucson, Arizona – the Titan Missile Museum.

This Cold War vestige is the only remaining Titan II missile silo site that is open to the public, allowing you to return to an era when the threat of nuclear war between the two international superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, was a day-to-day reality. As an Air Force weapon system, the grand Titan II could launch from its underground silo in 58 seconds, delivering a nine-megaton thermonuclear warhead in just 30 minutes to its target over 6,000 miles away.

For more than two decades, the Air Force Strategic Air Command (SAC) operated 54 Titan II missile complexes across the United States, standing "on alert" 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Titan II missiles were part of our nation's nuclear defense triad of manned bombers, ground-based ICBMs, and submarine-launched ballistic missiles.





Left: The control room at each Titan missile silo was staffed 24/7 by a four-person missile combat crew who deployed to the missile sites for 24-hour shifts, called alerts. (Photos this page: *Titan Missile Museum website – titanmissilemuseum.org*)

Below: The 103-foot-long Titan missile rests in a silo that is 146 feet deep and 26 feet in diameter.

In addition, 12 Titan IIs launched NASA's Gemini crewed space program in the mid-1960s. In the late 1980s, some Titan IIs were converted to launch vehicles that carried a variety of payloads including multiple satellites for the

National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Department of Defense. For the Titan II, in 2003, the final mission of this type launched a weather satellite from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California.

In April 1994, the Titan Missile Museum site was designated a National Historic Landmark, in recognition of the important role that the Titan II played in the defense of the free world, and the history of the nation that provided that assurance. There are fewer than 3,000 historic places in the United States that bear this national distinction, and this status is rarely conferred on sites that are less than 50 years old. However, the Titan ICBM launch complex 571-7 was just 31 years old when it achieved its historical landmark status. It is further distinguished by being one of only two ICBM sites in the entire world that have been preserved for the benefit of the public.

SAC was the hosting command of the Titan and its motto was "Peace is our Profession." As a result, the Titan Missile Museum provides a tribute to those professional peacemakers of the Cold War, contributing to public education about the history of nuclear conflict and a history of the peacekeepers of the Air Force.

For more information on this great museum that showcases a memorable aspect of the history of the Air Force and our nation, visit [the museum's website](#). Take advantage of this oasis in history lying deep beneath the Arizona desert ... while *On the Road*. 🇺🇸



On Language

Grammatical Cases Revisited

AUSTIN, Texas – For the most part, people get away with speaking carelessly; however, some do the same in writing, which is doomed from the start. For instance, consider the following sentence, taken from a published article:

As the episode progresses, we learn that Josh is actually looking for a girl named Sam Dean, who he has a major crush on.

The problem here is the accusative, or lack thereof. Saying the above can work in familiar speech but will ring serious alarm bells in writing. Why?

A quick simplification reduces the sentence as written to “Josh ... has a major crush on she.” No one fluent in English would say this, yet that is how the writing above is worded, after disentangling the words as published. Faced with the guts of this declarative sentence, it is readily apparent that the ending needs to be “on her” and not “on she.” Why?

The sentence quoted above is two sentences. The first one is, “As the episode progresses, we learn,” which is linked via “that” to the independent clause, “Josh is actually looking for a girl named Sam Dean, who he has a major crush on.” In turn, the independent clause is the combination of two independent clauses, the first one using the verb “looking” and the second one the verb “has.”

The starting sentence is worded correctly, but the writer went astray on the combined independent clauses, that have a subject (Josh), verb (looking), preposition (for) direct object (a girl named Sam Dean) and indirect object (who he has a major crush on). Now, the wart is exposed in the indirect object, that requires the accusative and should read “whom he has a major crush on,” because “Josh has a crush on her” is correct, but “Josh has a crush on she” is not. (Beware of dangling prepositions...)

Here is a rule to remember. When “who” replaces the subject (he, she, it or they), it is correctly used. However, to replace him, her, it, or them in a direct or indirect object, only “whom” will do.

Sadly, the above is a common error oft repeated.

The following headline is a less complicated case:

Major German manufacturer still down a week after getting hit by ransomware.

Here, the potential problem lies in “still down a week after.” Did the author mean “Major German manufacturer still down a week, after getting hit by ransomware,” or “Major German manufacturer still down, a week after getting hit by ransomware”? In the first case, the comma after “week” might suggest that this is not the first week that manufacturing has stopped, but the comma after “down” clearly says that manufacturing has stopped, and it has been a week since this first happened. Using too many commas might clutter up the sentence, but not using enough might leave the meaning murky.

Incorrect use of grammatical cases is not the only problem caused by careless writing. Logic can also become faulty. For instance, take the following published sentence,

Simply put, [they] have wasted the American people’s time, money and have failed on every campaign promise.

This sentence is an excellent example of what is called a *non sequitur* (Latin for “it does not follow”). In English, as in most other Western language, a list of comma-separated items can share the same starting wording, which keeps the writing from becoming convoluted and avoids unnecessary repetition. However, there is a catch: the items separated by those commas need to be of the same kind.

In writing contemporary English, it is usually preferred to omit the last comma in a comma-separated list. Therefore, the sentence above seems to have the following comma-separated

items: “time, money and have failed on every campaign promise.” This sentence fails in the sense that, removing the first two comma-separated items (time, money), it is saying “[they] have wasted the American people’s time and have failed on every campaign promise” This is most likely not what the author meant.

The following edit would make it work,

Simply put, [they] have wasted the American people’s time and money, and have failed on every campaign promise.

Apparently, the author wanted to have only one “and,” and opted for bundling the comma-separated “time, money” and then forgot that the *non sequitur* left the rest in bad need of an antecedent.

Then there are obvious cases of careless editing. Take for instance the example below.

[He] isn’t helping his party by carrying on impeachment proceedings in secret. He has banned [members] from attending the interviews who are not on his committee, he has refused to release transcripts of the meetings to members who have requested to read them.

Again, names and descriptors have been replaced by neutral statements, because the issue here is a grammatical rather than political one.

On the surface, the second sentence might read well, except that “who are not on his committee” seems to be a *non sequitur*. The author probably wanted to say, “He has banned [members] who are not on his committee from attending the interviews,” otherwise it would be “the interviews” that “are not on his committee,” even though interviews cannot be in committees. This, then, is a case of inattention and poor writing. What is much worse is that the second sentence is composed of two independent sentences, “He has banned [members] from attending the interviews who are not on his committee,” and “he has refused to release transcripts of the meetings to members who have requested to read them.”

The major flaw here is that there is a missing connector in the last sentence, that ought to have been either two separate sentences, or be joined by the conjunction “and.” Below is a possible edit of this paragraph.

[He] isn’t helping his party by carrying on impeachment proceedings in secret. He has banned [members] who are not on his committee from attending the interviews, and he has refused to release transcripts of the meetings to members who have requested to read them.

Then there are instances in which sentence fragments or incorrect wording escape the editor’s or the proofreader’s eye, such as this one:

[He] calls him like he sees them.

This one is truly puzzling, and only the writer knows what he meant to say. Neither did it make any sense in context, so no sample editing is offered here.

What is the lesson that emerges from the examples given above? Clarity and logical word order are essential to helping the reader get the message. The writer should strive to produce clear text that is presented logically, giving complete thoughts, and keeping sentences reasonably short. Most writers get in trouble when they carelessly write long and dense sentences.

As a rule, the less complicated the wording, the easier that it is understood. Ultimately, if it is too complex, since most people are willing to devote only limited time to it, the reader is likely to either misunderstand it or simply skip it and turn to something else. 🍷

Lt. Col. Arthur E. Woodgate, CAP

SWR Director of Public Affairs



The Safety Corner

CAP Safety Improvements

In the last issue of *The Fly-By*, I discussed how continuous improvement should work and how it applies to all our CAP activities. In addition to my SWR safety duties, I am also assigned to the National Headquarters staff as the Senior Safety Advisor to the Chief of Safety, and in this capacity, I participate on several teams working to improve our safety processes. I would like to tell you a little about what we have been working on and what is on the horizon.

First, you may have heard that CAPP 217 *Safety Specialty Track* has been revised. By the time you read this, it should be available for members working on their safety specialty track. The official release date is April 4, 2021.

The new pamphlet is substantially rewritten and updated to reflect recent changes in the safety regulations and our evolving CAP missions.

- There is no longer a requirement to become a qualified Mission Safety Officer (MSO). While we believe member should be involved in all three of CAP's missions to be Master rated, we realize that we do not conduct missions from fixed locations such as we did in years past. Because of that, some of the requirements of the safety specialty track have been particularly difficult for members to complete.
- They found it difficult to attend the in-person FEMA classes because of lack of available slots, besides the need to take time off during the week when they did find an available seat.
- These factors combined to make earning the MSO rating, exceedingly difficult. We still believe that participating in Emergency Services is crucial to becoming a well-rounded Master rated Safety Officer, which is why the new pamphlet, redesignated CAPP 40160, requires earning the Mission Staff Assistant designation and shadowing a qualified MSO during a mission on the road to earning a Master rating.
- Other changes include writing and speaking assignments; all designed to help members develop crucial safety communication skills.

Be sure to check out the new pamphlet in the [CAP publications index](#).

Another area that we are working on is a replacement for the CAP Safety Information and Reporting System (SIRS). SIRS and its predecessor Safety Management System (SMS) have not been as user friendly as we would have liked, and they lacked the capability to provide commanders and safety officers useful data to improve their CAP safety program. We are starting with a clean sheet design, but it will be several more months before the new system is unveiled to the general membership. Watch this space for more information as the design gets underway. 📺

Col. Robert Castle, CAP
SWR Director of Safety

Associated Press Style in a Nutshell

Below are the most important rules to keep in mind when writing in AP Style

- Write the title in normal English-language capitalization. Never all in caps.
- Add your byline below the article title.
- Do not format the text in the article (only exceptions are: bullet comments and numbered paragraphs in a section that details a process or sequence).
- Do not indent the first line of a paragraph.
- Use AP Style rules for punctuation.
- Single space the article. At the end of each paragraph, execute two end-of lines (Enter key).
- Do not introduce artificial paragraphing by hitting the Enter key at the end of each line in your article. Instead, let the text wrap naturally and tap two Enter keys at the end of the paragraph.
- Use only a single space after a period.
- Insert a dateline at the beginning of the article, following AP Style rules.
- Answer the 5Ws: Who, What, Where, When, Why + the honorary W: How. In writing a CAP article, you will always know the 5Ws.
- Write all dates in AP style.
- Do not use postal codes instead of state abbreviations in the dateline (not OK but Okla., not NM but N.M.) but some states have no abbreviation, such as Texas.
- Write all military grades in AP Style.
- Write the article in the third person singular.
- Express no opinion.
- To express opinion, use one or more quotes of qualified sources – always get the quoted person's permission to include the quote, unless it is a matter of record (printed article or recorded audio-visual). Get the quoted person's grade, name, job title and organization.
- Never self-quote.
- Identify all persons by grade or title, name, job title if material, and organization.
- Never refer to a young person as "kid."
- When a young person is a CAP cadet, never use "kid," "boy," "girl" or "child" but identify each one by grade, full name (or last name only – never first name only), and unit of assignment.
- Never use "their" for the possessive of a singular subject, such as, "the cadet took their meal." Avoid the issue by stating the sentence in plural, "The cadets took their meal."
- Avoid the abbreviations i.e. and e.g. You may know what each one means, and the Latin words they represent, but most people confuse the two. Be clear. Write in English and leave Latin and non-English to scholars.
- Refer to CAP members by grade, name, duty position and unit of assignment. Never by first name.
- On second or subsequent references to a person, use only the last name, except when there are two persons with the same last name, in which case the use of both first and last name is preferred (never just the first names).
- In the case of CAP or military commanders or high-ranking senior members, on second reference use the grade and last name.
- Do not use Lt. as a grade. Lt. is a mode of address. The correct grade may be 2nd Lt. or 1st Lt., but never Lt. Only the Navy and Coast Guard have the grade of Lt.
- Do not use exclamation marks in the body of your article, as doing so expresses opinion.
- Use simple declarative sentences.
- Avoid the passive voice.
- Remember the rules of English grammar and syntax – and follow them.
- **For best results**, buy the latest copy of the Associated Press Stylebook, available at a modest cost at www.ap.org – read it, study it, know it, and use it. 📖

About This Issue

AUSTIN, Texas – Trust is something that is easily bestowed on things, but more carefully granted to people. One trusts one's automobile, computer system, credit card solvency, and many other objects or systems in daily use that are part and parcel of our civilization and American way of life. One also trusts one's spouse, close friend, and business associates.

Until something happens.

In preparing to publish the April 2021 issue of The Fly-By, I confidently went to my main work computer (I have more than one) and looked up the needed files. Aha! There they were, cleverly organized in folders labeled by wing and region. These folders held the promise of content deeper under them. However, when I double-clicked into one of the folders, and then another, and another, they had no content. They were empty. They were virginal and unused. They were horribly lacking on what I knew they should have held, but they did not.

What happened?

Dismay does not come easily to me, as I furiously wracked my brain thinking of what I could resort to in order to salvage the issue. My reputation was at stake.

Then, habit came to the rescue. When I get a submission, the first thing I do is move the files to the correct folder, then edit the text, edit the images, assemble the final page, and print a PDF of the article. I email this PDF back to the author for comments. If any comments come back, I edit the article as needed and file it permanently on its folder awaiting publication.

When the issue date nears, I send an email to each wing PAO who submitted articles, attaching to it all that wing's PDFs. I delete nothing until the issue has been published, then archive all originals.

So here I am. Without any wing-level articles to use in the issue, either because of a computer error or a virus infection. It really does not matter which. The bottom line was, "Do I need to ask everyone to resubmit the articles?"

Aha! The problem may be with my computer, however my email server is not local but across the Web, holding all my precious messages, especially my **Sent** folder, with its now badly needed attachments.

Thus I became reunited with my submitted PDFs, which my latest version of Microsoft Word could crunch back into a Word file for me, leaving some additional detail work for me. In some cases, text and images were converted into a block that would yield an image for export but the text was not easily transferred to editable and formattable text. No problem. The fix just took a bit of time. Extract the image and create a new one using an image editor (in my case, the free Gimp). And reassemble the text by multiple copy-and-paste each line onto a new page.

Success. With the articles restored to Word files, I finally assembled this issue. 🍷



Lt. Col. Arthur E. Woodgate, CAP

SWR Director of Public Affairs